

# A One Shoe Fits All Solution To E-Cigs Is Erroneous

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[coehar.org/a-one-shoe-fits-all-solution-to-e-cigs-is-erroneous](https://coehar.org/a-one-shoe-fits-all-solution-to-e-cigs-is-erroneous)

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## Italy's Prof. Riccardo Polosa has advice for Denmark's Professor Charlotta Pisinger

**Catania (Italy), January 23 – Politics must make peace with science.** The public debate must mainly take into account the results based on scientific evidence. It is imperative that the data resulting from hundreds of studies be considered as the main source for the application of international public policies.

The latest person to call for a ban on e-cigs ignoring science is Professor Charlotta Pisinger from Denmark who this week recommended such a ban citing examples from 43 other countries during a widely watched television program in Iceland.

*“Assuming she has good intentions, Pisinger is unaware of the unintended consequences of bans and the hardline measures she is recommending”* said Dr. Riccardo Polosa who heads the Italian Centre for Excellence for the Acceleration of Harm Reduction (CoEHAR, University of Catania). *“There is also an important distinction between bans of commercialization and bans on usage. I am aware of countries where commercialization is technically illegal, but there is no persecution for usage. Bans tend to focus on sales rather than personal possession or use, which are less likely to be per se illegal (although obviously use can be restricted in certain areas, and there is always the danger that personal possession could be misinterpreted/misrepresented as possession with the intent of selling)”* Dr. Polosa said.

The recent ban on e-cigarettes in India is an example. A black market is believed to have emerged in the country in addition to increased Internet shopping for spurious products masquerading as quality e-cigs. *“The situation is all the more worrisome as Professor*

*Pisinger made her call during this popular television program in Iceland – a program arranged by the Icelandic lung association known for its anti-vaping stand,” Dr. Polosa added.*

The risk of e-cigs generally stands in the range of 90 to 95 per cent. Innovation in vaping is likely to reduce these residual risks further. Not following to science means not helping those young people who unfortunately started smoking too early and are now using ecig to quit permanently.

Dr. Polosa’s advice comes at a time when other authoritative voices are beginning to wonder if policy decisions on vaping are genuinely ignorant or intentionally so. New research released in New Zealand by renowned tobacco control researcher Dr. Marewa Glover asked Denmark to stop preventing Greenland’s Naalakkersuisut (Kalaallit Nunaat government) to adopt a harm reduction approach to reduce smoking as well as greater access to vaping and snus products. An autonomous Danish territory, Greenland is the world’s largest island and with limited self-government.

Stressing that the Kalaalliat population experience disproportionately greater harm from smoking she said, *“Kalaallit Nunaat is not the same as Denmark, Sweden, Iceland or Norway. There is a unique history, a people of a different culture and they are a people who have internationally recognized rights to self-determination – to not be dictated to by Scandinavian people who think they know better,”* Glover said.

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CoEHAR studies have shown that even heavy smokers can quit smoking thanks to ecig. Subjects with particular pathologies such as diabetes, high blood pressure and schizophrenia have been able to reduce the damage caused by decades of smoking thanks to the use of low-risk tools.

For several years now, Dr. Polosa and his team have are calling for science to speak to policies on vaping, especially callibrated harm-reduction as a first step to quitting.

The silence over alleged e-cigs related deaths in the United States (US) and the media attention they garnered further suggests that policy decisions cannot be allowed to swing with the vagaries of political decisions, especially in public health. **«It is but obvious that all people should be encouraged to quit or to switch to a combination of products that reduce risk – media frenzy and policy bullying cannot be an alternative anymore»** said Dr. Polosa.

# Vaping: Mexico bans e-cigarettes imports

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[eluniversal.com.mx/english/vaping-mexico-bans-e-cigarettes-imports](https://eluniversal.com.mx/english/vaping-mexico-bans-e-cigarettes-imports)

February 20,  
2020



## [Leer en español](#)

By a presidential decree published on the **Federal Official Gazette (DOF)**, from Thursday, **February 20**, the import of **electronic cigarettes** is forbidden to protect the Mexican population from **heavy metals** and other substances contained in them, as reported by the **Health and Economy Ministries**.

This, given the increase of patients with lung damage related to the use of **electronic cigarettes** used for the so-called vaping or the inhaling of **nicotine** and other chemical substances.

## **Recommended: [Vaping: a deadly habit](#)**

Through the **DOF**, it was asserted that there are “**over 200 registered cases** of patients with **serious lung damage**, related to the use of the **electronic cigarette**, mainly teenagers and young adults, in at least 25 states.”

Actualmente se han comercializado productos de nicotina y tabaco, novedosos y emergentes que emulan o imitan la conducta de fumar y que son referidos como de bajo riesgo. Estos productos son potencialmente nocivos para la salud de menores, adultos mayores y mujeres embarazadas. [pic.twitter.com/gTsS1YqqFK](https://pic.twitter.com/gTsS1YqqFK)

— CONADIC (@CONADICmx) [February 20, 2020](#)

Since **May 2008**, the sale of **electronic cigarettes** is forbidden in **Mexico**. Nonetheless, the agencies said that it requires the harmonization of a regulatory framework to prevent the **illegal sale** of this kind of product.

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has said that the **Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS)**, best known as electronic cigarettes or vaping devices, the **Electronic Non-Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENNDS)**, and the **Alternative Nicotine Delivery Systems (ANDS)** can contain levels of toxic substances and carcinogenic compounds, in occasions higher than traditional cigarettes.

### **Recommended: Is marijuana really legal in Mexico?**

“The **WHO** has stressed that the devices constitute a **risk** for people around who are exposed to the spray exhaled by the users of the devices because the solutions and the mixes used in them are usually dissolved in **propylene glycol** or **glycerine**, elements that harm the **heart** and the **lungs**,” they assert.

In Mexico, **938,000 teenagers** have tried at least once an electronic cigarette, out of which **160,000** use it on a regular basis according to the **ENCODAT 2016-2017**; this information alerted the federal government since it represents the entrance door to **nicotine addiction**.

### **Recommended: Smoking kills six people in Mexico every day**

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## E-CIGARETTE BAN & REGULATION: GLOBAL STATUS AS OF JUNE 2019

### 42 COUNTRIES<sup>1</sup> BAN SELLING OF E-CIGARETTES

The sale/distribution of e-cigarettes<sup>2</sup> is banned in the following forty-two (42) countries: *Antigua and Barbuda\**, *Argentina*, *Australia*, *Bahrain*, *Barbados\*\**, *Bhutan*, *Brazil*, *Brunei Darussalam*, *Cambodia*, *Colombia*, *Costa Rica\*\**, *Egypt\**, *Ethiopia\**, *Gambia*, *Iran*, *Japan*, *Jordan*, *N Korea*, *Kuwait*, *Laos*, *Lebanon*, *Mauritius*, *Mexico*, *Nepal*, *Nicaragua*, *Oman*, *Panama*, *Qatar*, *Saudi Arabia*, *Seychelles*, *Singapore*, *Sri Lanka*, *Suriname*, *Syria*, *Thailand*, *Timor-Leste*, *Turkmenistan*, *Uganda*, *United Arab Emirates*, *Uruguay*, *Vatican City*, *Venezuela\**.

### 56 COUNTRIES ALLOW SELLING OF E-CIGARETTES BUT PROVIDE SALES RESTRICTIONS/REGULATIONS

In fifty-six (56) countries that permit the sale of e-cigarettes, there are regulations around sale such as cross-border sale restrictions/regulations, restrictions in venues where they can be sold, access restrictions, or other restrictions:

*Austria*, *Belgium*, *Bulgaria*, *China*, *Canada*, *Croatia*, *Cyprus*, *Czech Republic*, *Denmark*, *Ecuador*, *Estonia*, *Fiji*, *Finland*, *France*, *Georgia*, *Germany*, *Greece*, *Honduras*, *Hungary*, *Iceland*, *India<sup>3</sup>*, *Indonesia*, *Ireland*, *Italy*, *Ivory Coast*, *Jamaica<sup>4\*\*</sup>*, *S. Korea*, *Latvia*, *Liechtenstein*, *Lithuania*, *Luxembourg*, *Malaysia*, *Maldives*, *Malta*, *Moldova*, *Netherlands*, *New Zealand*, *Norway*, *Palau*, *Philippines*, *Poland*, *Portugal*, *Romania*, *San Marino*, *Slovakia*, *Slovenia*, *Spain*, *Sweden*, *Switzerland<sup>5\*\*</sup>*, *Tajikistan*, *Togo*, *Turkey*, *Ukraine*, *United Kingdom*, *Vietnam*.

### 30 COUNTRIES REGULATE NICOTINE (and/or OTHER) CONTENT/S OF E-CIGARETTES

Of the fifty-four countries allowing the sale of e-cigarettes, at least thirty (30) countries are known to regulate the amount (concentration/volume) of nicotine in e-liquids – in the EU, the threshold concentration is 20mg/mL “AND” do not permit the use of ingredients (other than nicotine) that pose a risk to human health in heated or unheated form in nicotine-containing e-liquid (“OR” for Canada and Israel):

*Austria*, *Belgium*, *Bulgaria*, *Canada*, *Croatia*, *Cyprus*, *Czech Republic*, *Denmark*, *Estonia*, *Finland*, *France*, *Germany*, *Greece*, *Ireland*, *Israel*, *Italy*, *Latvia*, *Lithuania*, *Luxembourg*, *Malta*, *Moldova*, *Netherlands*, *Poland*, *Portugal*, *Romania*, *Slovakia*, *Slovenia*, *Spain*, *Sweden*, and *United Kingdom*.

**OTHERS:** There is no reliable information available in other countries and are hence, not listed here. E-cigarettes are found/ likely permitted in many African/ Latin American countries, although in many cases, there are no specific laws allowing/ disallowing the same.

#### Sources:

1. [Global Tobacco Control website: https://www.globaltobaccocontrol.org/e-cigarette/domain-classification](https://www.globaltobaccocontrol.org/e-cigarette/domain-classification)
2. Information provided by country contacts

\* Included based on information from *No Fire, No Smoke: The Global State of Harm Reduction, 2018 (GSTHR)*

\*\*Conflicting information found

<sup>1</sup> Refers to sovereign states.

<sup>2</sup> Five (5) countries specifically prohibit the sale of nicotine-containing e-cigarettes: *Australia*, *Costa Rica\*\**, *Japan*, *Mexico*, *Sri Lanka*.

<sup>3</sup> India is currently contemplating a ban on e-cigarettes and several of its states have initiated the same.

<sup>4</sup> Importation is not allowed without permit from the health ministry, use in public places is banned.

<sup>5</sup> A ban on sale was overturned by the courts as of Apr 2018 No information regarding appeal.