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1^{er} Sommet de la vape

POLITIQUE DE SANTÉ
ET CIGARETTE ÉLECTRONIQUE



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The 1st e-cigarette Summit in France was a notable success which helped to bring closer the views of many representatives of public health, vapers, and industry professionals.

While the knowledge on personal vaporisers (Electronic Cigarettes or PV) is progressing well, the 1st French E-cig Summit brought together all stakeholders (Tobacco control and Harm-reduction associations, vapour product professionals, vapers, scientists, and Government representatives) at the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers (CNAM) May 9, 2016 to browse together current data and determine the future conduct concerning vapour products. The day ended with the promise of the creation of a working group initiated by the DGS (Directorate General for Health).

Six points of consensus among the participants, that should encourage smokers to use this alternative to quit tobacco smoking:

1. When used in normal conditions, e-cig vapour is at least 20 times less harmful than tobacco smoke.
2. Vapour products, including e-liquids are currently classified as consumer products. Presently standards exist. These quality standards (AFNOR or other equivalent standards) should reassure smokers eager to find an alternative to smoking.
3. Vaping has enabled numerous smokers to quit smoking or significantly reduce their tobacco consumption.
4. Flavours, appropriate nicotine dose, and equipment suited to each smoker are the key components to successful quitting.
5. In adolescents, e-cigarettes appear to represent more a competitor to tobacco smoking than an introductory product, and fears of seeing it as a gateway to smoking fade in 2016; but vigilance is still required.
6. Cohort studies of vapers on the long term are needed to confirm the benefits of personal vaporisers.

Three points are still being debated, mainly related to the position of the products in the society:

7. Vapers, and many health professionals ask for a strong and clear signal from the health authorities.
8. Direct and indirect advertising for combustible products is unanimously disowned. A possible total advertising ban on vapour products including in the vape shops is also largely disowned by a majority of stakeholders.
9. Vaping ban in public- and workplaces appears to be the least consensual point, even if all acknowledge the absence or near absence of health risk. However, the possibility of having vaping rooms in workplaces proposed by the government was rejected by MPs. This provision should absolutely be reintroduced in the new Health Law, not mandatory but as an option.

So, the *Sommet de la Vape*, whose independence was assured by 444 crowdfunders, clearly pointed out what is consensual and what is not yet. As recommended by the National Academies of Medicine and Pharmacy, which never supported harm-reduction in the past, as well as the High Council of Public Health, smokers should be encouraged to try vaporisers to quit smoking.

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