

# The role of electronic cigarettes and heated tobacco products in tobacco control in Italy and Europe

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Propositions accompanying the thesis

**The role of electronic cigarettes and heated tobacco products  
in tobacco control in Italy and Europe**

- 1) Users of e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products (HTP) more frequently start smoking conventional cigarettes if they are never tobacco smokers, relapse if they are former smokers and continue smoking if they are current smokers. *(this thesis)*
- 2) From a public health perspective, e-cigarettes and HTPs have an unfavourable net effect on tobacco control. *(this thesis)*
- 3) The interference of the tobacco industry on the scientific literature is huge. Studies directly or indirectly supported by the tobacco industry provide biased and misleading conclusions. *(this thesis)*
- 4) All the attempts of the tobacco industry to claim for harm reduction for tobacco resulted in a successful marketing strategy but also in a serious threat for public health. *(this thesis)*
- 5) Public health organizations and policy makers should move to legally equate novel (tobacco) products with conventional tobacco cigarettes.
- 6) Scientific evidence should only rely on conflict of interest-free research.
- 7) Death in old age is inevitable but death before old age is not. *(Richard Doll, 1994)*
- 8) The final goal of epidemiology should not be limited to prevention but should focus on health promotion, i.e., the process of enabling people to increase control over, and to improve, their health.
- 9) We must believe in science since the scientific method is the only one allowing us to obtain honest predictions. *(Giorgio Parisi, 2021)*

**Silvano Gallus**

Maastricht, 14 February 2022