

**Question for written answer E-003303/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Ignazio Corrao (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Environmental impact of disposable e-cigarettes: need for action and incentives for a sustainable solution

The market for disposable e-cigarettes is in rapid expansion, and these products have been the focus of public attention owing to their harmful effects on the environment.

They have a very short lifecycle and cannot be refilled or reused. They also contain liquids, batteries, metal components and plastics that must be disposed of correctly to avoid harm to the environment and human health.

The most recent data show that more than 10 million devices may be circulating in Italy and that substances such as lithium and cobalt are not being properly recycled¹².

Directive 2012/19/EU governs the treatment of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and stresses the need to process such devices separately.

E-cigarettes count as R4 waste, which is principally medium-sized items, and small devices such as e-cigarettes are generally disposed of as unsorted waste, from which very little is recovered; the lowest rate of all waste categories.

In view of the above:

1. How does the Commission intend to avoid this infringement of EU legislation on WEEE?
2. Does it consider that the principle that e-cigarette manufacturers must take responsibility for end-of-life management of the product either individually or collectively is being complied with?
3. What initiatives is it considering to encourage the re-use and proper disposal of e-cigarettes?

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¹

https://www.huffingtonpost.it/dossier/terra/2023/01/28/news/arrivano_le_sigarette_elettroniche_usa_e_getta_si_ma_getta_dove-11183344/

² <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-66740556>