

Petition to the European Parliament

Subject: Elimination of Plastic Components in Cigarette Filters to Protect Public Health and the Environment

To the European Parliament,

We, the undersigned, respectfully call upon the European Parliament to propose and adopt legislation to phase out the use of plastic in cigarette filters sold within the European Union.

Cigarette filters, most of which are made from cellulose acetate (a plastic), are the most littered single-use plastic item in the EU and globally. Despite their small size, they are a significant contributor to plastic pollution, particularly in marine and freshwater ecosystems. These filters take years to degrade and release microplastics, toxic chemicals, and heavy metals, which accumulate in the environment and pose risks to biodiversity and food chains.

Moreover, plastic cigarette filters offer no proven health benefit to smokers. On the contrary, they may encourage deeper inhalation and create a false perception of safety, potentially increasing harm. Their continued use is therefore unjustifiable on both public health and environmental grounds.

We urge the European Parliament to:

1. Recognize plastic cigarette filters as a serious environmental pollutant and public health concern.
2. Amend existing legislation under the Single-Use Plastics Directive and Tobacco Products Directive to ban the use of plastic in cigarette filters.
3. Promote research and support for biodegradable, non-toxic alternatives where appropriate.
4. Launch an EU-wide public awareness campaign on the environmental and health impacts of cigarette filters.

By taking this step, the EU would demonstrate global leadership in reducing plastic waste and protecting human and environmental health.

Respectfully submitted,

Name: _____

Contact Information: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Signatures

Name	Email or Address	Date