

# Forest EU – Attitudes towards tobacco policies in the EU

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28<sup>th</sup> September 2018

# Findings

Lobbying is the act of attempting to influence decisions made by officials in government, most often legislators or members of regulatory agencies. Do you think that taxpayers' money should or should not be used to lobby the European Commission and members of the European Parliament?

Base: All Respondents (6,167)

	Total	France	Germany	Poland	Romania	Italy	Spain
NET: Should be used	<b>23%</b>	18%	11%	18%	33%	22%	33%
NET: Should not be used	<b>60%</b>	60%	74%	69%	47%	59%	50%
Don't know	<b>17%</b>	22%	15%	14%	20%	18%	17%

- Overall throughout the 6 tested nations, 3 in 5 (60%) respondents believe that lobbying the European Commission and European Parliament with taxpayers' money should not be allowed, with a quarter (23%) of respondents who think this should be allowed and a further 1 in 6 (17%) not being sure either way.
- A third of respondents (33%) in Romania and (33%) Spain believe this should be allowed, compared to just 1 in 10 (11%) in Germany, significantly lower than all other tested nations.
- In Germany, younger respondents are much more likely than their older counterparts to believe that taxpayers' money should be used to lobby the European Commission and European Parliament, with 1 in 5 (19%) aged 18-24 and a quarter (24%) aged 25-34 thinking so, compared to just 1 in 10 (11%) aged 35-44 and (11%) 45-54 and 6% aged 55+.
- In Germany, 1 in 5 (19%) of those who would support an organisation who defended the interests of adults who chose to smoke, would back the use of taxpayers' money to lobby, as opposed to 1 in 10 (8%) Neither likely nor unlikely and (9%) unlikely to back such an organisation.
- In Romania, an astonishing half (50%) of respondents aged 18-24 would support the use of taxpayer's money to lobby European institutions, whilst in Spain support is again most prominent among those aged 18-24, with half (49%) supporting such a measure.
- In Romania, support for lobbying among those aged 65+ is significantly higher than any other nation, with 36% in support compared to 27% in Spain, 17% in Poland, 14% in Italy, 7% in France and 3% in Germany.

Thinking about European Commission priorities, how important or not important do you think each of the following are?

Base: All Respondents (6,167)

	Mean	France	Germany	Poland	Romania	Italy	Spain
Tackling breast cancer	<b>8.60</b>	8.07	8.03	8.62	9.05	8.91	8.93
Improving food information to consumers, reducing waste and fighting against food fraud	<b>8.46</b>	8.10	8.08	8.45	8.89	8.66	8.56
Helping with data on rare diseases	<b>8.18</b>	7.69	7.73	7.94	8.64	8.60	8.51
Tackling cross-border food crisis and health epidemics	<b>8.09</b>	7.47	7.75	7.83	8.90	8.21	8.42
Promoting research on antimicrobial resistance	<b>7.96</b>	7.45	7.47	7.67	8.78	8.15	8.23
Preventing plant disease and pests	<b>7.70</b>	7.04	7.24	7.72	8.34	7.81	8.03
Tackling saturated fat, salt, sugar and alcohol-related harm	<b>7.69</b>	7.33	7.21	7.63	8.11	7.91	7.94
Improving the welfare of animals	<b>7.63</b>	7.29	7.75	7.67	7.80	7.63	7.63
Reducing tobacco consumption	<b>7.40</b>	6.94	6.49	7.21	7.96	8.02	7.81
Promoting telemedicine and cross-border healthcare	<b>7.29</b>	6.45	6.79	7.04	8.23	7.65	7.57

- Overall across all 6 nations tested, respondents are of the belief that reducing tobacco consumption (Mean score 7.40) is one of the lowest priorities of the provided options for the European Commission, with tackling breast cancer (Mean score 8.60) being the most important priority, followed by Informing food consumers, reducing waste and fighting against food fraud (Mean score 8.46).

- Reducing tobacco consumption is only considered the least important listed priority among respondents in Germany (Mean score 6.49).
- Meanwhile in Italy reducing tobacco consumption (Mean score 8.02) is considered more important than tackling saturated fat, salt, sugar and alcohol-related harm (7.91), preventing plant disease and pests (7.81), promoting telemedicine and cross-border healthcare (7.65) and improving the welfare of animals (7.63).
- In every nation tested, reducing tobacco consumption is considered a higher priority by those aged 65+ than any other age group, with a mean score among respondents of 65+ of 8.26 in Spain, 8.42 in Romania, 7.72 in Poland, 8.58 in Italy, 6.82 in Germany and 7.37 in France.
- Poland and Spain are the only two nations tested with significant differences between the attitudes among male and female respondents when it comes to a mean score concerning how important a priority reducing tobacco is, males in Poland with a Mean score of 6.96 compared to 7.43 among females, and males in Spain 7.66 compared to females 7.95.

### Do you think cafés, bars and nightclubs should or should not be allowed to provide a well-ventilated designated smoking room to accommodate smokers?

Base: All Respondents (6,167)

	Total	France	Germany	Poland	Romania	Italy	Spain
NET: Should be allowed	<b>68%</b>	62%	65%	82%	79%	70%	50%
NET: Should not be allowed	<b>30%</b>	35%	32%	14%	20%	28%	49%
Don't know	<b>2%</b>	4%	3%	3%	1%	2%	1%

- Overall two thirds (68%) of respondents are of the belief that cafes, bars and nightclubs should be allowed to provide a well-ventilated designated smoking room to accommodate smokers, with just 3 in 10 (30%) who think this should not be allowed, although there is a large disparity among respondents of different nations.
- The belief that a well-ventilated designated smoking room to accommodate smokers should be allowed in cafes, pubs and nightclubs is once again most prevalent among Polish respondents, 4 in 5 (82%) with this view, matched by 4 in 5 respondents in Romania (79%) who also believe this should be the case. Over half (53%) of respondents in Poland and (54%) Romania definitely agree that cafes, bars and nightclubs should be allowed to provide a smoking room of this description.
- Meanwhile just half (50%) of respondents in Spain think that cafes, pubs and nightclubs should be allowed to have well-ventilated smoking rooms, however those Spanish respondents who disagree are more likely to feel strongly in opposition, so whilst 1 in 5 (21%) respondents in Spain thinking this smoking room should definitely be allowed, a third (34%) of Spanish respondents think this should definitely not be allowed.

Thinking of electronic cigarettes (a device that heats a flavored liquid — usually containing nicotine — for inhalation) or vapourisers (a device that heats tobacco but does not burn it to extract its compounds), do you think adults should or should not be allowed to do each of the following?

### Vape in places where smoking is prohibited?

Base: All Respondents (6,167)

	Total	France	Germany	Poland	Romania	Italy	Spain
NET: Should be allowed	<b>26%</b>	25%	26%	23%	26%	36%	21%
NET: Should not be allowed	<b>69%</b>	71%	69%	72%	69%	61%	74%
Don't know	<b>5%</b>	4%	6%	5%	4%	4%	5%

- A quarter (26%) of respondents across tested European nations believe that adults should be allowed to vape in places where smoking is prohibited, whilst 7 in 10 (69%) do not believe vaping should be permitted in such places.
- Italian respondents (36%) are significantly more likely than those in all other nations to believe that respondents should be allowed to vape in places where smoking is prohibited, with both male (38%) and female (33%) respondents in Italy being significantly more likely than their gender equivalents in all tested countries to believe vaping should be allowed in places where smoking is prohibited.

### Vape in cafes/bars?

Base: All Respondents (6,167)

	Total	France	Germany	Poland	Romania	Italy	Spain
NET: Should be allowed	<b>33%</b>	30%	33%	30%	41%	38%	26%
NET: Should not be allowed	<b>62%</b>	66%	61%	64%	54%	58%	69%
Don't know	<b>5%</b>	4%	6%	6%	5%	4%	5%

- Respondents are more likely to think that vaping in cafes and bars should be allowed (33%) than the quarter (26%) who believe that vaping should be allowed in places where smoking is prohibited.
- More than twice as many respondents support the notion of smoking being permitted in well-ventilated designated smoking areas in cafes, bars and nightclubs (68%) than vaping being allowed in cafes and bars (33%).
- Respondents in Romania are much more likely to believe that vaping should be permitted in cafes and bars (41%) than in areas where smoking is prohibited (26%), this being the largest disparity between the two vaping statements.

- Whilst 7 in 10 (69%) respondents in Spain and two thirds (66%) of respondents in France believe that people should not be allowed to vape in cafes and bars.

### To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree that anti-tobacco regulations have gone far enough in regulating smoking?

Base: Respondents Excl. those selecting Don't know and Neither Agree nor Disagree (4,662)

	Total	France	Germany	Poland	Romania	Italy	Spain
NET: Agree	<b>56%</b>	56%	63%	40%	60%	56%	60%
NET: Disagree	<b>44%</b>	44%	37%	60%	40%	44%	40%

- Overall respondents are more likely to agree that anti-tobacco regulations have gone far enough, 56% who believe this to be the case compared to 44% who don't think these regulations have yet gone far enough.
- Over 3 in 5 (63%) respondents in Germany agree that anti-tobacco regulations have gone far enough, whilst slightly fewer (60%) in Romania and (60%) in Spain share this same viewpoint.
- Despite respondents in Poland being the most likely nation to support well-ventilated designated smoking areas in cafes, bars and nightclubs (82%), they are the least likely to believe that anti-tobacco regulations have gone far enough with just 2 in 5 (40%) believing so, compared to 3 in 5 (60%) disagreeing that such anti-tobacco regulations have gone far enough.
- Respondents in Spain are the only nations with notable age disparities when comparing older and younger respondents, so whilst 68% of respondents aged 55+ agree that anti-tobacco regulations have gone far enough, this is significantly more than all younger age groups (18-24, 45%; 25-34, 60%; 35-44, 57% and 45-54; 55%).

**Which of the following measures, if any, do you think will do most to reduce youth smoking rates? Please select one option only**

*Base: All Respondents (6,167)*

	Total	France	Germany	Poland	Romania	Italy	Spain
Mandatory education in schools about the health risks of smoking	<b>52%</b>	39%	43%	43%	66%	63%	59%
Harsher penalties for shopkeepers caught selling tobacco to children	<b>23%</b>	22%	26%	26%	22%	20%	21%
A ban on adults buying cigarettes for children	<b>9%</b>	12%	11%	14%	3%	7%	9%
Tackling illicit trade	<b>7%</b>	14%	7%	7%	5%	2%	4%
The introduction of standardised non-branded packaging for tobacco products	<b>3%</b>	3%	4%	4%	2%	4%	4%
None of these	<b>6%</b>	10%	9%	6%	2%	3%	4%

- Over half (52%) of respondents think that the best way to reduce youth smoking rates is to provide mandatory education in schools about the health risks of smoking, with a quarter (23%) believing harsher penalties for shopkeepers caught selling tobacco to children is the best solution, 1 in 10 (9%) feel a ban on adults buying cigarettes for children, 7% tackling illicit trade and just 3% overall who think that the introduction of standardised non-branded packaging is the most effective solution to reduce youth smoking rates.
- This pattern of mandatory education being considered the most effective way to reduce youth smoking rates is consistent across every nation tested, although whilst two thirds (66%) of respondents in Romania believe mandatory education in schools to be the best solution, just 2 in 5 (39%) French respondents feel the same way.
- Overall 6% do not think any of these solutions will be effective with respondents in France (10%) and Germany (9%) the most pessimistic that any of the solutions to reduce youth smoking rates will be effective.
- Overall, older respondents across all tested nations are the most likely to think that mandatory education in schools into the health risks of smoking is the most effective solution, with respondents aged 65+ being the most likely to think so in every country, apart from Romania where respondents aged 55-64 (73%) are more likely to think this an effective solution than those aged 65+ (70%).
- Meanwhile respondents closest to school age 18-24, are the age group least likely to believe this to be the best solution in every country apart from France, where respondents aged 25-34 (29%) are less likely to think this an effective solution than those aged 18-24 (32%).
- Younger respondents in France, over a third (35%) aged 18-24 and 3 in 10 (29%) aged 25-34, are significantly more likely than older respondents, just 1 in 6 (17%) aged 55+ to believe that harsher penalties for shopkeepers caught selling tobacco to children is the best way to reduce youth smoking rates.

Populus interviewed 6,167 adults aged 18+ online in France (1,024), Germany (1,036), Poland (1,040), Romania (1,029), Italy (1,018) and Spain (1,020), with interviews being conducted between 25<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018. Populus is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules. For more details go to [www.populus.co.uk](http://www.populus.co.uk).

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