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Press Release

There is no such thing as a risk-free cigarette

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For several years now both the tobacco industry and some scientists have been announcing the imminent launch of the "risk-free cigarette". But tobacco continues to cause more and more premature fatalities around the world! The *Office français de prévention du tabagisme (OFT)* condemns the media coverage of Gerard Weissman, Editor-in-Chief of the US journal FASEB (Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biologies) and the recent article by T. Goldkorn.

This media attention will be exploited by the tobacco industry in exactly the same way as was the case for previous "discoveries": e.g. filters protect smokers, "lights" are less harmful, almost tar-free cigarettes prevent cancer, fire-safe cigarettes prevent tobacco-related fires and now, since 28 February 2008, that cigarettes without radicals would soon reduce risks for smokers and passive smokers!

Also no data is available about the behaviour of smokers who use such cigarettes: will they take deeper puffs, as is the case for smokers of "lights"? This will completely offset the lower nicotine and pollutant absorption of these cigarettes, as analysed in smoking machines.

The main effect of any statement to the effect that a cigarette can be healthy, or even less toxic, will be to cause young people to give up any intention of not starting to smoke or of quitting, and will thus probably cause an increase in global tobacco toxicity in public health terms.

Tobacco smoke kills. There is no hope of a healthy cigarette.

The OFT encourages non-smokers not to start and to protect themselves from tobacco smoke and also encourages smokers to quit and not to be duped by any statements concerning so-called "healthier cigarettes".

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