



C.E.D.T.  
CONFÉDÉRATION EUROPÉENNE DES DÉTAILLANTS EN TABAC (G.E.I.E.)

Logo Federation

**Date, City**

**Subject: Open letter to candidates in the European elections on 26 May.**

Ladies and gentlemen,

You are candidates for the next European elections to be held in the various European countries between 23 and 26 May.

As a European organisation representing 150,000 local businesses and tobacco retailers, which is an integral part of the daily lives of our fellow citizens, we would like to send you this message of presentation and offer for dialogue.

Our network of shops is present in Italy, France, Spain, Austria, Greece and Hungary and has more than 40 million European citizens who visit our shops every day. It has the common characteristic of being under the control of the tax or customs administrations of their respective countries. These administrations grant, according to strict procedures, licences or authorisations for the retail sale of tobacco products or their derivatives.

The men and women who own these shops are responsible, because of this particular status, for the correct implementation of public health policies of the European Community and its Member States. Compliance with health rules and the distribution of tobacco products and their derivatives; prohibition of sales to minors; security of tax returns; control of the traceability of products sold at official prices.

The existence of such outlets is the only guarantee of public control over the sale of tobacco products and represents the most effective response to the fight against uncontrolled sales of smuggled products, the proliferation of which poses a threat to European public health. We also represent the ideal network for the sale of novel products containing or not nicotine.

Be aware that these are men and women, often organised as family businesses, who are trained and specialised in the sale (and not the sale to minors) of addictive products. As such, they are the key economic players in the life of rural areas, urban centres and peripheral urban areas. It employs 360,000 people. Finally, they play a role of social connection through human presence and reception when the person is essential.

This is the simple and strong evidence we wanted to express to you.

Please take into account our availability for any exchange and dialogue during this period of the election campaign.

CEDT President  
Peter Schweinschwaller

President national federation