

## Press Release

### **DUTCH CANCER SOCIETY IS FILING A DECLARATION AGAINST THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY**

**Amsterdam, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017 - The Dutch Cancer Society filed a declaration against the four biggest tobacco manufacturers in the Netherlands this week (Philip Morris International, British American Tobacco, Imperial Tobacco Benelux and Japan Tobacco International). Together these manufacturers produce and sell virtually all major brands of cigarettes available on the Dutch market.**

A declaration of aggravated assault (resulting in death) and forgery has been filed.

The declaration of forgery is based on a new legal insight that the tobacco producers are intentionally manipulating the statutory tests which measure the emission of harmful and addictive substances in cigarettes.

This is being done by providing the cigarettes with minuscule holes at crucial sites, resulting in the test equipment measuring lower concentrations of toxic and addictive substances than the actual emissions. In practice the smoker will therefore actually not be inhaling the test values, but the actual higher values. The actual emissions are generally way above the permitted European and legal standards. Cigarettes are therefore more harmful and addictive than the producers would have us believe.

The Dutch Cancer Society's declaration joins previous declarations, filed by two victims of smoking, Anne Marie van Veen and Lia Breed and the Youth Smoking Prevention Foundation, on 29th September 2016. Details of the declaration can be found [here](#).

The insight that the public was misinformed about how damaging and addictive smoking actually is and that the legal standards for the emissions appear to be exceeded intentionally has resulted in KWF's definitive conviction that a declaration needs to be filed.

Dutch Cancer Society – Director Michel Rudolphie: “30% of all cancer deaths are caused by smoking. People are actually inhaling many more pollutants than we were originally aware of. We cannot accept that people's health is dealt with in this way.”

It is expected that the Public Prosecutor will reach a decision in due course regarding all declarations simultaneously.

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