



**HEALTH
MINISTRY**

SECRETARY OF STATE
HEALTH

GENERAL DIRECTION OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

Dear President,

First of all, on behalf of the Minister, I would like to thank you as a representer of your organization and to the rest of the signatory entities and the public in general, of the signatures that show the commitment in the fight against the “La Graciosa sin Humo” Campaign. Undoubtedly, and as can be seen from the extraordinary reception of your initiative with a representation of up to 53 countries worldwide, the relevance of this matter concerns us directly in application of international legality.

In this regard, I confirm that this Department has approached the City Council of the Canarian municipality of Teguise, in Lanzarote, in order to obtain more information about the aforementioned campaign initiated by this municipal corporation on the island of La Graciosa. However, as of today, no response has been received from the Teguise City Council to the aforementioned request, and it is still awaiting it.

According to published information, the Teguise City Council is carrying out a series of initiatives that promote, with the collaboration of a tobacco company, the objective of making La Graciosa a smoke-free island. Among these actions, specifically, there is talk of "showing scientifically proven alternatives to cigarettes to those who do not want to quit smoking."

In the letter sent, the Ministry recalls that these alternatives referred to are not supported by the scientific evidence currently available and, furthermore, are contrary to the document [“Tobacco and related products: Implication of their consumption in public health”](#) which reflects the Agreement reached by this Department with the autonomous communities within the Public Health Commission of the Interterritorial Council of the National Health System. The same document sets out the health risks associated with the use or exposure to the aerosols emitted by this type of product, together with the recommendation not to consume them.

This position has been confirmed in the [reports published in this regard by this Ministry](#) as well as by the [World Health Organization](#).

On the other hand, it is reported that this Department has contacted the company TÜV Austria, collaborator of this initiative and responsible for the certification protocol "Smoke-Free Culture" obtained by the island, indicating that the referred protocol is not in "In accordance with the guidelines of the competent Ministry of Health" as it was incorrectly reflected on its website and this having been withdrawn as a result of the communication.

Finally, I reiterate to you, as we already had the opportunity to express to you in the last two meetings held last year, this Government's commitment to reducing smoking, in line with the requests that your entity and other scientific organizations and societies make to us. have moved.

Thanking you, as always, for your support and collaboration to always work with the Ministry of Health.

He receives a cordial greeting,

Sincerely,"

Madrid, October 22, 2021

THE GENERAL DIRECTOR

Pilar Aparicio Azcárraga

NOTE: This is a google translation of the [original letter sent by the Spanish Ministry of Health](#)