

THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY AND THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY: A DISTURBING RESEMBLANCE

BACKGROUND

The fossil fuel and tobacco industries, responsible for millions of deaths each year as well as severe environmental impacts, have developed remarkably similar strategies to protect their profits. Both have long concealed or downplayed scientific evidence regarding the harmful effects of their products before seeking to sow doubt when their responsibility became difficult to deny.

TWO DEADLY INDUSTRIES, ONE STRATEGY

Their strategy relies on several tactics:

- influencing scientific research,
- discrediting unfavorable studies,
- promoting industry-aligned experts,
- spreading misleading messages based on individual responsibility, economic freedom, or the alleged costs of regulations,
- and lobbying policymakers intensively.

These industries maintain comparable networks of influence, mobilizing think tanks, business associations, lawmakers, and political funding to delay, weaken, or block regulations that might limit their activities. In Switzerland, the tobacco and fossil fuel lobbies enjoy privileged access to political institutions and help hinder public health and climate protection policies.

LIMITING LOBBYING

OxySuisse calls for limiting the influence of these industries by:

- regulating marketing practices,
- increasing transparency in lobbying,
- ending partnerships that could create conflicts of interest,
- exposing disinformation strategies,
- supporting independent research
- and, when warranted, taking legal action against companies that have intentionally spread false information or concealed essential data of public interest.