

Question for written answer E-003037/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Public health risks associated with the Commission's new tax on tobacco

The Commission has announced a new tax on tobacco products under the Tobacco Excise Duty Own Resource (TEDOR). While details are yet to be presented, there has so far been no indication that Swedish oral tobacco (snus) will not fall within the scope of the new tax.

For many, oral tobacco functions as a less harmful alternative to traditional tobacco consumption. Sweden currently has the lowest tobacco-related mortality rate in the EU. The incidence of smoking-related deaths among Swedish men is less than half that of the rest of the EU.¹ Sweden is now smoke-free.²

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission consider that a new tax, which encompasses tobacco for oral use, may result in the increased use of other, more addictive and harmful, products?
2. How does the Commission assess the public health consequences of reduced oral tobacco use in Sweden?
3. Does the Commission consider it reasonable that Sweden be given certain exemptions from the new tax in the event of negative consequences for public health?

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¹ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/345643346_Tobacco-related_mortality_SwedenEU_easier_readable_charts?channel=doi&linkId=5fa9c1ad458515157bf7823f&showFulltext=true.

² <https://www.thebulletin.be/swedish-experience-how-snus-tradition-helped-country-achieve-smoke-free-status>.