

Question for written answer E-003693/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Paolo Borchia (Pfe)

Subject: Economic risks arising from the harmonisation of excise duties on nicotine-containing products

In recent months, the European Commission has put forward a proposal to harmonise excise duties on nicotine-containing products. The measure would lead to disproportionate increases in taxation – up to 790 % in some cases –, affecting all kinds of products without distinction.

It would increase the tax burden for citizens and businesses, while at the same time fuelling smuggling and the black market. The consequences would be particularly serious for Italy, the leading European producer of raw tobacco, with significant damage to the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. There are also products of excellence at risk, which stand for culture, tradition and national identity.

Such a tax policy also risks favouring competition from outside the EU, in particular China, which is already dominant in the global tobacco market.

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission believe that an indiscriminate increase in excise duties on nicotine-containing products is compatible with the proportionality principles that should guide EU tax policies?
2. Will it take steps to safeguard the EU's agricultural and manufacturing sectors, particularly those in the 'Made in Italy' collective, which are severely affected by this proposal?
3. What steps will it take to avoid ending up favouring producers from outside the EU, in particular China, which is already dominant in the global tobacco market?

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