

**Question for written answer E-000685/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Sebastian Kruis (PfE)

Subject: Scientific basis and transparency in risk communication and taxation of non-combustible nicotine products

In recent public statements and policy discussions, the Commission has expressed concerns regarding non-combustible nicotine products, including nicotine pouches, and has indicated that these products should not be considered as significantly reducing health risks compared to combustible tobacco. At the same time, ongoing discussions on the revision of tobacco taxation suggest that such products may be subject to high levels of excise duties comparable to those applied to traditional tobacco products.

Given the fact that the comparative assessment of health risks between combustible and non-combustible nicotine products remains subject to scientific debate, particularly with regard to medium- and long-term effects, it is essential that public communication and fiscal approaches are transparent, proportionate and evidence-based.

In the light of the above:

1. What scientific evidence does the Commission rely on when making public statements that place non-combustible nicotine products at a risk level comparable to combustible tobacco?
2. How does the Commission ensure that its public communication avoids oversimplified or potentially misleading messages in a context of scientific uncertainty?
3. How does the Commission assess the potential impact of its approach on adult consumers, in particular the risk that taxation or regulatory framing may discourage smokers from switching away from combustible tobacco?

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