

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000122/25
to the Commission
Daniel Buda (PPE)
(14 January 2025)**

Subject: Tobacco track and trace systems

The deployment of track and trace systems is vital as part of tobacco monitoring measures to verify supply chain compliance. Countries such as the UK have made progress using these technologies to monitor the tobacco trade. A report by the UK's National Economic Crime Centre highlights the national tobacco track and trace system as being a breakthrough law enforcement technology that provides valuable data on supply chain activities in the fight against tobacco crime.

The Commission has failed to adopt the tobacco track and trace system with the same resolve in the EU. Europol has stressed that the illicit tobacco trade is a major source of income for organised crime and occasions significant financial losses to the EU. This raises question marks over the effectiveness of the EU strategy on combating the illicit tobacco trade and ensuring the compliance of the supply chain with EU legislation.

1. What steps is the Commission taking to ensure that the tobacco track and trace system in the EU is in step with the progress made in other countries?
2. Can the Commission detail how and to what extent the EU system is being used by Member States and the Commission to monitor trade along the tobacco supply chain?

Submitted: 14.1.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(18 March 2025)**

The EU tobacco traceability system established by Directive (EU) 2014/40/EU ⁽¹⁾ and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/574 ⁽²⁾ allows for the monitoring of the movements of all tobacco products through their entire supply chain within the EU.

Thanks to the information stored in the system, Member States are able to determine at which point a product is no longer reported in the supply chain and take appropriate measures as necessary.

The EU tobacco traceability system fully complies with the requirements of Article 8 of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products ⁽³⁾ to the World Health Organisation's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control ⁽⁴⁾. The Protocol is a legally binding international treaty addressing the issue of illicit trade in tobacco products.

The Commission is currently carrying out a comprehensive evaluation of the EU legislative framework on tobacco. Following regulatory steps will depend on the findings of that evaluation.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2014/40/oj>

⁽²⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2018/574

⁽³⁾ <https://fctc.who.int/protocol#:~:text=The%20Protocol%20to%20Eliminate%20Illicit%20Trade%20in%20Tobacco,it%20is%20a%20global%20solution%20to%20a%20global>

⁽⁴⁾ <https://fctc.who.int/resources/publications/i/item/9241591013>