

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001976/25
to the Commission
Kosma Złotowski (ECR)
(16 May 2025)**

Subject: Changes in the tobacco market in the European Union

In recent years, the tobacco industry has undergone a number of significant changes. New products have appeared on the market which are not always properly defined and which fall outside the scope of the current rules. At the same time, public awareness of the harmful effects of smoking and the consequences of tobacco use for public health has been growing. Member States are taking measures at national level to ensure that e-cigarettes, nicotine pouches and heated tobacco products are taxed appropriately, but coordination at European level is also needed to ensure a level playing field in the single market.

1. Is the Commission currently working on a revision of the existing rules governing the functioning and taxation of the tobacco industry in the EU?
2. Does the Commission intend to present the main elements of these changes in the near future and to consult the public on this matter?
3. Does the Commission consider that tobacco tax rates should be linked to the amount of toxic substances emitted?

Submitted: 16.5.2025

**Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(1 July 2025)**

The Commission continues to work on revising the Tobacco Tax Directive.

The upcoming revision is based on an impact assessment and public consultations in line with the principles of Better Regulation.

The Commission is assessing a number of options in line with the Council conclusions of June 2020 on the structure and rates of excise duty applied to manufactured tobacco.

Harmonisation of excise duties on tobacco products necessitates careful consideration of public health and fiscal objectives, while respecting national competences.

The Commission is committed to supporting Member States in line with the objectives of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life/european-health-union/cancer-plan-europe_en.