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E-002377/2025

Answer given by Mr Hoekstra
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.8.2025)

The Commission on 16 July 2025 proposed¹ an update of the EU's Tobacco Taxation Directive². In light of evolving public health challenges and significant shifts in the market, the reform aims at modernising this Directive in line with the EU's health and economic priorities.

The analysis for a revision of the tobacco taxation rules is based on Better Regulation principles, guaranteeing that any revision is based on comprehensive impact analysis and stakeholder consultations to ensure evidence-informed policymaking. The impact assessment takes careful consideration of public health, fiscal and national competence objectives, and in particular economic and social impacts. The proposal follows Council Conclusions of June 2020 in which Member States unanimously requested the Directive to be updated, as well as the Commission's commitment to advancing Europe's Beating Cancer Plan goal to reduce smoking prevalence to below 5% by 2040.

¹ Proposal for a Council Directive on the structure and rates of excise duty applied to tobacco and tobacco related products (recast), COM (2025) 580 final.

² Council Directive 2011/64/EU of 21 June 2011 on the structure and rates of excise duty applied to manufactured tobacco, OJ L 176, 5 July 2011, p. 24–36.