

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003037/25
to the Commission
Charlie Weimers (ECR), Dick Erixon (ECR), Beatrice Timgren (ECR)
(22 July 2025)**

Subject: Public health risks associated with the Commission's new tax on tobacco

The Commission has announced a new tax on tobacco products under the Tobacco Excise Duty Own Resource (TEDOR). While details are yet to be presented, there has so far been no indication that Swedish oral tobacco (snus) will not fall within the scope of the new tax.

For many, oral tobacco functions as a less harmful alternative to traditional tobacco consumption. Sweden currently has the lowest tobacco-related mortality rate in the EU. The incidence of smoking-related deaths among Swedish men is less than half that of the rest of the EU. ⁽¹⁾ Sweden is now smoke-free. ⁽²⁾

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission consider that a new tax, which encompasses tobacco for oral use, may result in the increased use of other, more addictive and harmful, products?
2. How does the Commission assess the public health consequences of reduced oral tobacco use in Sweden?
3. Does the Commission consider it reasonable that Sweden be given certain exemptions from the new tax in the event of negative consequences for public health?

Submitted: 22.7.2025

**Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(12 September 2025)**

The proposed Tobacco Excise Duty Own Resource (TEDOR) ⁽¹⁾ is not a tax but a revenue source for the EU budget that builds on the Tobacco Taxation Directive ⁽²⁾. The own resource does not define the scope of tobacco taxation. It solely specifies that a certain share of revenues from tobacco taxes will go to the EU budget.

The Commission adopted at the same time a proposal ⁽³⁾ to revise the Tobacco Taxation Directive.

There are no safe levels of tobacco or nicotine consumption, including of smoke-free tobacco and nicotine products ⁽⁴⁾. Therefore, the Commission proposes to extend the scope of the Tobacco Taxation Directive to include such products.

Article 17 of the Tobacco Products Directive ⁽⁵⁾ prohibits the placing on the market of snus within the EU. Only Sweden is exempted from this provision by means of Article 151 of the Act of Accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden ⁽⁶⁾. Article 1(2) of the proposal therefore makes clear that the revised Directive will not harmonise taxation rules on tobacco for oral use, known as snus.

¹ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/345643346_Tobacco-related_mortality_SwedenEU_easier_readable_charts?channel=doi&linkId=5fa9c1ad458515157bf7823f&showFulltext=true.

² <https://www.thebulletin.be/swedish-experience-how-snus-tradition-helped-country-achieve-smoke-free-status>.

⁽¹⁾ Proposal for a Council Decision on the system of own resources of the European Union and repealing Decision (EU, Euratom) 2020/2053, Brussels, 16.7.2025, COM(2025) 574 final, 2025/0574(CNS).

⁽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, 5.7.2011, p. 24-36.

⁽³⁾ 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.

⁽⁴⁾ World Health Organisation, Factsheet, Tobacco <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/tobacco>.

⁽⁵⁾ Directive 2014/40/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning the manufacture, presentation and sale of tobacco and related products.

⁽⁶⁾ Act concerning the conditions of accession of the Kingdom of Norway, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden and the adjustments to the Treaties on which the European Union is founded, Contents, OJ C 241, 29.8.1994, pp. 9-404.