

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004951/25
to the Commission
Nicolás González Casares (S&D)
(15 December 2025)**

Subject: Alleged assistance by EU trade officials to tobacco company Philip Morris International abroad

Recent investigative reporting has revealed that Commission trade officials held undisclosed meetings with representatives from Philip Morris International (PMI) and raised concerns on behalf of the company in non-EU countries, including Mexico and Turkey. According to the documents cited, these actions were described internally by PMI as being 'of great help' to the company's commercial interests, particularly regarding heated tobacco and nicotine products.

These interactions appear to conflict with the EU's obligations under the framework Convention on Tobacco Control, which requires public authorities to protect public health policies from the vested interests of the tobacco industry and to ensure transparency.

In this context:

1. Can the Commission confirm how many meetings or exchanges Commission officials have had with PMI or its representatives since 2020, including meetings related to trade or market access issues in third countries?
2. How does the Commission assess their compliance with Article 5(3) of the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and the Commission's own guidelines on interactions with the tobacco industry?
3. Did Commission services raise concerns with non-EU authorities regarding tobacco or nicotine regulation following requests from PMI, and if so, on what legal or policy basis were such interventions made?

Submitted: 15.12.2025

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(6 March 2026)**

With reference to the allegations raised in recent investigative reporting, since 2020, Commission officials from the Directorate-General for Trade and Economic Security held five meetings with Philip Morris International (PMI) and received a number of messages from PMI in which market access issues in third countries were raised.

The meetings with PMI took place in the context of complaints received by the Commission's Single Entry Point from PMI about trade barriers maintained by third countries.

These meetings and related exchanges observed the respective corporate guidance and the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on tobacco control, as is the case for all Commission interaction with the tobacco industry in general.

The Commission did not raise concerns with non-EU authorities regarding tobacco or nicotine regulation following requests from PMI.

In particular, while the Commission identified a trade barrier on tobacco maintained by Mexico following PMI's complaint through the Single Entry Point, it did not raise this issue with Mexico.

The Commission, in the framework of a regular review of Türkiye's trade policy held in the World Trade Organisation, has asked Türkiye a general question about all local content requirement schemes maintained by Türkiye, one of which affects tobacco trade. The Commission did not raise the specific tobacco trade measure with Türkiye.
