

EN

E-000250/2026

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(15.4.2026)

1. The Study on smoke-free environments and advertising of tobacco and related products¹ was carried out under the Specific contract 2019 71 01, implementing framework contract N°SANTE/2016/A1/39 – Lot 1. The contracted amount was EUR 179,995.

2. Figures as regards the time and EU money spent on the drafting of the Commission Staff Working Document² accompanying the document Proposal for Council Recommendation on Smoke- and Aerosol-Free Environments replacing Council Recommendation 2009/C 296/02 are not available.

3. The competence of the EU to act in the field of excise duty is conferred by Article 113 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which empowers the Council to adopt harmonised rules, necessary to ensure the proper functioning of the internal market and to avoid distortions of competition. Apart from harmonising excise duty for manufactured tobacco, Directive 2011/64/EU³ ensures a high level of health protection. In the evaluation of Directive 2011/64/EU and in the preparation of the proposal for its revision⁴, the Commission followed the Better Regulation principles. Comprehensive and up-to-date impact assessments and external studies have been used in order to support the policy cycle, and to gather evidence on all relevant impacts.

¹ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/68ce81fc-5d55-11ec-9c6c-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52024SC0055>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2011/64/oj/eng>.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0580>.