

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002256/26
to the Commission
Christel Schaldemose (S&D)
(3 June 2026)

Subject: Revision of the Tobacco Products Directive to address new nicotine products and protect young people

In February 2026, the Nordic Cancer Union (NCU) called for a revision of the Tobacco Products Directive ⁽¹⁾ (TPD). Their recommendations also reflect concerns raised in the European Parliament, including in its draft report on the implementation of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan.

The use of new nicotine products among young Europeans has risen in recent years, driven by targeted marketing, including via product design, social media, choice of flavours and packaging.

The evaluation of the EU tobacco control framework ⁽²⁾ underscores the need to adapt current legislation to new tobacco and nicotine risks.

I would like to ask about how the Commission will ensure that the revision moves forward.

1. How will the Commission take the NCU's recommendations into account in preparing for the upcoming revision of the TPD?
2. Given the market development of harmful tobacco and nicotine products, how will the Commission ensure that the Member States will be, under the revised directive, fully able to prohibit certain categories of tobacco, nicotine and related products in order to protect public health, as is currently the case under Article 24(3) of the TPD?
3. How will the Commission ensure a transparent and timely revision process, and one that is protected from tobacco industry interference, according to its obligations under Article 5(3) of the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control?

Submitted: 3.6.2026

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(17 July 2026)

Following the evaluation of the Tobacco Products Directive and Tobacco Advertising Directive ⁽¹⁾, the Commission is conducting an impact assessment and consultation activities, in full compliance with the Better Regulation framework.

For example, a call for evidence on the revision of the EU tobacco control rules was published on 18 May 2026 ⁽²⁾ and a public consultation ⁽³⁾ on 22 May 2026, enabling citizens and stakeholders to share their views. All feedback received will be considered when assessing future policy options.

The Commission intends to propose by the end of 2026 a revision of the legislative framework on tobacco control ⁽⁴⁾. The revision process is carried out in full compliance with Article 5.3 of the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control ⁽⁵⁾.

The Commission cannot comment on measures that may be included in a future proposal revising the EU tobacco control legislation.

The Commission is committed to ensuring that the EU tobacco control legislation ensures the smooth functioning of the internal market and provides a high level of protection of human health, especially for young people.

¹ 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 and repealing Directive 2001/37/EC (OJ L 127, 29.4.2014, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2014/40/oj>).

² https://health.ec.europa.eu/tobacco/evaluation-legislative-framework-tobacco-control_en.

⁽¹⁾ https://health.ec.europa.eu/tobacco/evaluation-legislative-framework-tobacco-control_en.

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/17612-Tobacco-products-and-tobacco-advertising-revision-of-EU-rules_en.

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/17612-Tobacco-products-and-tobacco-advertising-revision-of-EU-rules/public-consultation_en.

⁽⁴⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/17612-Tobacco-products-and-tobacco-advertising-revision-of-EU-rules_en.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://fctc.who.int/>.