

**Question for written answer E-011090/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Julie Girling (ECR)

Subject: Tobacco Products Directive (TPD) packaging specifications

The implementation of the Tobacco Products Directive will result in a change in the specifications for a range of packaging used in the tobacco sector.

Packaging companies have indicated to DG Health and Consumers that the lead times for new equipment can require up to 18 months, given the need to specify, order and install the equipment and to train operatives in new methods of product manufacture. Substantial investment will be necessary once the secondary legislation requirements are known. The new implementation plan from DG Health and Consumers does not allow for these lead times.

On this basis, what advice can the Commission give, and what steps will it take, to ensure that such companies can meet the compliance deadline of May 2016?