

**Question for written answer E-000858/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ulla Tørnæs (ALDE)

Subject: Tobacco Products Directive

In its work programme for 2015, the Commission is focusing on improved legislation. A decisive factor for good legislation is a suitable and predictable implementation period, which gives companies sufficient time to adjust.

In its answer to question E-009558/2014, the Commission addressed the complications caused by delays in delegated legislative acts and implementing acts. In this answer, the Commission stated that the consequences of a delay must be ascertained when assessing a particular case. The deadline for implementing the Tobacco Products Directive, Directive 2014/40/EU, is 20 May 2016. The text of the law will be supplemented by delegated legislative acts and implementing acts. The industry – particularly the packaging sector – will need 12 to 18 months to adjust production so that it complies with the new legislation. According to the indicative plan for the implementation of the Tobacco Products Directive, some of the delegated legislative acts and implementing acts are expected to be published in the last quarter of 2015 or later. This will not give the industry the 12 to 18 months it needs to convert production. Would the Commission explain what consequences delays in delegated legislative acts and implementing acts will have?

Would the Commission give earlier examples of directives, where delays in delegated legislative acts or implementing acts made it difficult to comply with the time limit for implementation?

Would the Commission describe the steps it took to alleviate these difficulties?