

**Question for written answer E-002898/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Knut Fleckenstein (S&D)

Subject: Delay in the technical specifications of the Tobacco Products Directive 2014/40/EU

In the scope of the Tobacco Products Directive, the adoption of numerous implementing legal acts and delegated legal acts relating to technical details was assigned to the European Commission. For example, the Commission is to determine the format for the reporting of ingredients, the position of warnings on packs of hand-rolling tobacco and the layout of combined image-and-text warnings. According to the timetable published by the Commission, some of these legal acts are not scheduled until the end of 2015, but the Directive must be transposed into national law and applied by 20 May 2016.

Some businesses in the Member States need a lead time of 12-18 months to change their production in order to be able to guarantee timely implementation of the Directive on 20 May 2016. The late specification of the technical details makes timely implementation of the Directive considerably more difficult.

1. What measures will the Commission take in order to give businesses a technically feasible changeover time?
2. What prospects does the Commission see for an extension of the deadline beyond 20 May 2016?
3. If businesses should feel obliged to change their production now without any legal certainty about the future specifications in order to be able to meet the current deadline, will the Commission take account of the measures taken when it adopts the legal acts?