

**Question for written answer E-000278/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Patricija Šulin (PPE) and Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE)**

Subject: Better protection from exposure to second-hand smoke

Although significant progress has been made in the fight against smoking – not least thanks to the efforts of the Commission – the number of smokers in the EU remains high. Smoking is linked to numerous diseases and is responsible for the death of nearly 700 000 Europeans every year<sup>1</sup>. The number of passive smokers, including many children, who fall ill and die as a result of second-hand smoke is of particular concern. According to the World Health Organisation, second-hand smoke is responsible for almost 10% of tobacco-related deaths worldwide<sup>2</sup>.

Passive smokers are exposed to cigarette smoke in a number of ways, including:

- children exposed to their parents' smoking at home or in the car;
- cigarette smoke in the corridors of apartment blocks resulting from inadequate insulation of doors to apartments occupied by smokers;
- at the entrance to public buildings where, although in many countries smoking in the building itself is prohibited, non-smokers are exposed to second-hand smoke from people smoking on the pavement in front of the entrance; ashtrays are even placed here to encourage it as a place to smoke. This also happens at the entrance to the buildings of the European institutions.

1. How does the Commission assess the danger to EU inhabitants from passive smoking?
2. Does the Commission have any studies or information about regulations in various fields – from housing to labour regulations – which exacerbate the risk of passive smoking? If not, does it plan to carry out such studies and adopt appropriate rules to prevent passive smoking?

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/tobacco/policy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/tobacco/policy/index_en.htm)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs339/en>