

**Question for written answer E-000947/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Patricija Šulin (PPE) and Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE)

Subject: Effectiveness and success of anti-smoking campaigns

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. According to the Commission's figures, as much as 28% of the overall population and 29% of young people in the 15-24 age bracket smoke.¹ Smoking is linked to numerous types of cancer, cardiovascular disease and respiratory disease and is responsible for the death of nearly 700 000 Europeans every year.² Sufferers are often unable to work and face additional treatment costs.

Public campaigns to raise awareness about the harmful effects of smoking, such as Ex-smokers are unstoppable or HELP – For a life without tobacco³, can, if appropriately designed, be an important tool for reducing the number of smokers.

1. Does the Commission intend to continue its anti-smoking campaigns after 2016?
2. Has the Commission carried out any evaluations of its actions and programmes to raise public awareness and tackle smoking?
3. If it has, what were the results of those evaluations and how does the Commission intend to take those results into account in planning its anti-smoking campaigns?

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/health/tobacco/policy/index_en.htm

² http://ec.europa.eu/health/tobacco/policy/index_sl.htm

³ http://ec.europa.eu/health/tobacco/ex_smokers_are_unstoppable/index_sl.htm