

Question for written answer E-008279/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Alberto Cirio (PPE)

Subject: Extension of the 'Better law-making' agreement to non-legislative matters

Preparatory work for the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control is almost complete. Among the political options on the table is a reduction in the nicotine content of tobacco. As this is something that can only be achieved, according to the latest scientific research, by treating the dried leaves with chemical additives or by using genetically modified organisms (GMOs), the use of which is not permitted everywhere, the consequences on health and the jobs of those who make a living from growing tobacco are uncertain.

In light of the above, can the Commission clarify:

1. if it is true that this option is on the table;
2. if suitable impact assessments have been carried out, as per the 'Better law-making' agreement;
3. what the limits of the negotiating mandate given to the Commission are, or at least if a decision on this matter would fall under its mandate or not.