

**Question for written answer E-008385/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Franck Proust (PPE)

Subject: Tobacco: combating smuggling and promoting price harmonisation in the EU

French tobacconists are the first to notice any developments in the shadow tobacco market, which is an out-and-out scourge that nullifies almost all the efforts being made in the field of public health communication. The shadow tobacco market accounts for around 27% of all cigarettes bought in France. It is market that is fuelled by smuggling, but also through cross-border purchases.

1. What national and European measures has the Commission identified or does it intend to establish to combat the smuggling of tobacco from outside the EU and within its borders?
2. Does the Commission not feel that genuine harmonisation of tobacco prices across Europe could be a means of combating this illegal trade more effectively?