

**Question for written answer E-003933/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Illicit bulk tobacco imported from non-EU countries

The fight against the illicit tobacco trade centres largely on manufactured cigarettes, yet according to a study carried out by the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore and Transcrime in December 2016, illicit trade in bulk tobacco, or the sale of unbranded cut tobacco outside legitimate channels, has been increasing.

More than EUR 870 million per year is lost in eight EU Member States alone, a considerable proportion as a result of inflows from outside the EU, mainly from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The illicit tobacco trade is in breach of the competition laws laid down in Article 101 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and bulk tobacco has never been cited as a growing problem.

In the light of the above information, what is the Commission doing to fight bulk tobacco inflows into the European Union?