Question for written answer E-004589/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Carolina Punset (ALDE)

Subject: Nicotine delivery devices and information on their use and possible harm reduction

Nicotine delivery devices were regulated for the first time in the EU in 2014 through Directive 2014/40/EU on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning the manufacture, presentation and sale of tobacco and related products. The Directive introduced a series of strict criteria concerning quality, safety, consumer information and sale, and recognised the differences between nicotine delivery devices and conventional tobacco products.

Since the Directive was adopted in 2014, a discrepancy in Member States' public policies on those products has been found, particularly with regard to the reduction of harm linked to tobacco consumption amongst smokers and its possible use in policies intended to combat the effects of smoking. Whilst some countries, such as the UK and France, are openly exploring the potential of nicotine delivery devices to complement their tobacco control policies, other countries are still sceptical of them.

Three years after the adoption of Directive 2014/40/EU:

1. Does the Commission have data, based on Member States' experiences and figures, on the potential of nicotine delivery devices to reduce the harm linked to smoking tobacco?

2. Have specific monitoring and follow-up mechanisms been introduced for those products to enable the Member States to share best practices on the matter?