

**Question for written answer E-000749/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Lorenzo Fontana (ENF)

Subject: Limitation of the free movement of propylene glycol and/or glycerol and flavourings

Propylene glycol and/or glycerol and flavourings, which constitute the refill liquid for electronic cigarettes, are sold freely in the European Union. In 2015 Italy introduced a consumption tax on these liquids. Through subsequent modifications, increasingly restrictive measures have been imposed on the sale of these products, creating an ever greater distance between national and European legislation.

Current legislation limits the retail sale of liquids with and without nicotine, which are subject to authorisation from the Administration of State Monopolies and consumption tax. Distance selling (both national and cross-border) is prohibited, while importing and possession are considered to be smuggling offences.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. whether it has been notified by Italy about the limitations to free movement, and whether these limitations should be left to the discretion of individual states;
2. whether it considers these limitations to be compatible with the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and specifically with the Articles relating to free movement;
3. what steps it intends to take in order to protect European citizens who, when they go to Italy, may find themselves subject to legal or administrative penalties simply for being in possession of nicotine-free vaping liquids for personal use?