

Question for written answer E-000837/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Philippe Juvin (PPE)

Subject: Implementing act concerning the establishment of a traceability system for tobacco products

On 15 December 2017 the Commission published a series of measures under the Tobacco Products Directive (2014/40/EU) to combat the illicit trade in tobacco products. This system aims to meet the international obligations entered into by the EU and 17 of its Member States during the ratification of the WHO Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products.

The Commission implementing act does not make any technological choices regarding the implementation of the traceability system. The decision to affix a simple code or secure label is left up to the Member States, while the WHO recognises that good traceability practice is having a dual security system: a tracking code and an encrypted label.

1. Might there not be some shortcomings in the traceability system that the Commission intends to establish, owing to this lack of an encryption requirement in addition to the traceability code?
2. Why did the Commission not choose a secure encoding system?