

**Question for written answer E-000646/2019  
to the Council**  
Rule 130  
**Merja Kyllönen (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Reducing the use of snus by young people

Directive 2014/40/EU provides that Member States must prohibit the placing on the market of tobacco products with a characterising flavour, such as snus. The purpose of banning characterising flavours and aromas (Directives 89/622/EEC and 92/41/EEC) is to make products less tempting, particularly to young people.

The use of snus is increasing, especially among young people. Experts are of the opinion that banning the use of flavourings in snus would reduce its use. In addition, young people and new users are drawn to snus by its attractive retail packaging.

Prolonged use of snus results in various types of damage to the mouth area. It particularly affects the biting surfaces of teeth and the gums. The damage caused by snus can be greater for young people than for adults, because young people's gums are more sensitive. Nicotine in snus has similar effects to nicotine in tobacco, including insomnia, headaches and changes to the nervous system. Using snus brings about a significant increase in the risk of cancers of the mouth, throat and pancreas and is also linked to cardiovascular disease.

1. What do Member States intend to do to reduce the use of snus by young people?
2. Are there any plans for reducing the attractiveness of snus to young people and new users by taking measures with regard to the appearance of retail packaging so as to add appropriate health warnings in the form of a combination of pictures and text?