

**Question for written answer P-005082/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Norbert Erdős (PPE)**

Subject: Will the EU tobacco tracking and tracing system work globally?

The purpose of the tobacco tracking and tracing system envisaged in Directive 2014/40/EU is to combat illicit tobacco trade, which is not only prejudicial to public health and taxation, but also detrimental to the legitimate interests of compliant business operators and lawful tobacco growers.

I am concerned, however, that the EU system will be nothing but an isolated solution, as there are no guarantees as to whether third countries, which are sometimes the origin of illicit tobacco products, will introduce a similar system. Even if they do, such schemes may not be interoperable with the EU system.

Without such guarantees, there is a significant risk that we will be introducing a mechanism of very little (if any) public health and budgetary benefit which runs counter to all business rationale.

In view of the above:

- How can the Commission guarantee that the EU tobacco tracking and tracing system will be globally interoperable?
- What consultations are taking place with the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) Secretariat and what internationally recognised standards are being taken into account for this purpose?