

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2333/02
by Markus Ferber (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

What is the Commission's general attitude to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control? Where does it stand on the individual obligations such as abolishing subsidies for tobacco growing, payments from industrialised countries to help developing countries implement the Convention, financial aid in converting from tobacco to other products, banning cigarette machines, banning sales to young people, etc?

Does the Commission consider it sensible – as the Council demands in its conclusions on the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, adopted in June 2001 – to make resources available to developing countries? It seems for example very doubtful in the light of political developments in Zimbabwe, one of Africa's largest tobacco-producing countries, whether Mr Mugabe should be provided with even more EU funds for his policies.

Why have the Commission and Council not involved the European Parliament in the negotiations and conclusion of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control ?