

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3394/04
by Christopher Huhne (ALDE)
to the Commission

Subject: Tobacco advertising and sponsorship

1. Can the Commission confirm that the sale of tobacco and tobacco products (pipes, pouches, etc.) via websites will continue to be permitted following the implementation of Directive 2003/33/EC¹?
2. Can the Commission outline its official interpretation of '... any form of commercial communication with the aim or direct or indirect effect of promoting a tobacco product' (Article 2 of Directive 2003/33/EC)? What impact will this have on the offer for sale of tobacco and tobacco products on websites?
3. Will the Commission indicate whether it has conducted any impact assessments into the effect that this Directive will make on internet tobacco and tobacco-product sales for both small businesses and consumer choice? If so what were the findings?
4. What safeguards has the Commission put in place to ensure that small business and consumer choice will not be adversely affected?

¹ OJ L 152, 20.6.2003, p. 16.