

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1669/09
by Frieda Brepoels (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Animal tests for the development of tobacco products

Royal Decree of 28 October 2008 prohibited animal tests for the development of tobacco products in Belgium. It is abundantly clear, after all, that smoking is damaging to health. Animal tests are therefore completely superfluous and do not accord with the prevention policy being pursued both by Flanders and by the European Union in this field.

A European survey by the Animal Welfare and CITES Department of the Belgian Federal Service for Health, Safety of the Food Chain and the Environment into the situation in the various European Member States has indicated that *in vivo* tests for the development of tobacco products are probably no longer being conducted anywhere except in Belgium.

1. Is the Commission aware of *in vivo* or *in vitro* animal tests for the development of tobacco products in other Member States? If so, in which Member States? If not, will the Commission perform research into this?
2. Is the Commission considering a general European ban on animal tests for the development of tobacco products, by analogy with the ban on animal tests for the development of cosmetics? If so, how is this being prepared and when can this proposal be expected? If not, why not?