

**Question for written answer E-9012/2010/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Ivo Strejček (ECR)

Subject: Possible revision of the Tobacco Products Directive

On 24 September 2010, the Commission launched a consultation on the possible revision of the Tobacco Products Directive (2001/37/EC). The Commission claims that this is a public discussion. However, the discussion on the directive in question is only accessible on the internet and is conducted only in English.

On the basis of the report on a survey carried out by Eurobarometer, some 49 % of EU citizens do not speak English at all. These citizens are therefore totally excluded from this public discussion.

According to the report, up to 77 % of citizens in the Czech Republic do not speak English, and 30 % – mainly older people – do not know how to use a PC.

Does the Commission still think that this form of discussion is sufficient? We are, after all, talking about a very basic issue, the regulation of tobacco products. Does it think it will get genuinely representative replies from EU citizens if only those who can use the internet and speak English are involved?