

Question for written answer E-003123/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Ivo Strejček (ECR)

Subject: Impact of revised Directive 2001/37/EC on traders and entrepreneurs

The proposal for an amendment to directive 2001/37/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council contains provisions that would seriously encroach on the functioning of the internal market in the tobacco sector. Its impact would be felt not only by manufacturers, but also by a large number of entrepreneurs and traders – the backbone of Member States' economies. It is regrettable that this sector has been put under unrelenting pressure in recent years – to the point where its very survival is at risk – by the economic downturn and the ever-increasing amount of regulation.

1. Does the Commission have credible and independent data on the directive's potential impact on traders and retailers for whom tobacco products are a major source of income?
2. Do the Commission's forecasts take indirect costs, such as those associated with the bankruptcy of some of those entities and the ensuing costs for Member States' social systems, into account?
3. How does the Commission justify the fact that the negative effects of this directive directly contradict its declarations, plans and strategic documents on securing conditions for the development of SMEs?