

**Question for written answer E-001996/2018  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Karol Karski (ECR)**

Subject: Illicit trade in tobacco products

Illicit trade in tobacco products leads to the EU losing tax revenue worth millions of euros every year and it is one of the factors contributing to premature death among EU citizens. As a result, EU countries have been obliged to implement a tobacco tracking and tracing system. This is regulated by the Tobacco Products Directive (2014/40/EU), which establishes an EU-wide tracking and tracing system for products in the legal supply chain of tobacco products, and safety features to help citizens and authorities identify illegal products.

In the light of the above, can the Commission say:

1. Will the introduction of the EU-wide tobacco tracking and tracing system have a real impact on the illicit trade in tobacco products?
2. Will that system be tight enough to significantly prevent children and adolescents from accessing tobacco?
3. In its opinion, will the measures taken improve and increase the quality of public health and bring significant economic benefits to the European Union and its citizens?