

**Question for written answer E-001826/2019**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Renate Sommer (PPE)**

Subject: Directive 2014/40/EU

Manufacturers and importers are required to submit notifications of e-cigarettes and refill containers to the competent authorities six months prior to their intended placing on the market (standstill obligation under Article 20(2)). The legal basis is the transposition of Directive 2014/40/EU of 3 April 2014 on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning the manufacture, presentation and sale of tobacco and related products and repealing Directive 2001/37/EC. According to Recital 36 of this Directive, this is intended to enable Member States to carry out their surveillance and control tasks.

There are doubts as to whether these authorities have sufficient resources to carry out these tasks in line with the standstill obligation.

EU market players respect the standstill obligation in order to support effective consumer protection. However, a large number of traders from third countries, such as China, are supplying e-cigarette products to consumers in the Union directly from third countries without any control, disregarding the standstill obligation. There is a risk that these products may not comply with product safety requirements. Consumers find them attractive, as they are available months earlier by means of private importation.

How often has compliance with the notification and standstill obligations by European importers or manufacturers of e-cigarettes and e-cigarette companies from third countries been monitored?

How often has the placing on the market of an e-cigarette product been prevented in the event of non-compliance?