

**Question for written answer E-004196/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Tobacco smuggling from Ukraine

The EU Member States lose EUR 10 billion in tax revenues each year due to illegal trade in tobacco products. Ukraine is the number one country of origin for illicit cigarettes trafficked into the EU market. In 2018 alone, inflows from Ukraine accounted for over 4 billion cigarettes.

The EU and Ukraine are working together to curb illicit flows of tobacco products. This cooperation is covered by the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement that entered into force on 1 September 2017. In his response to written question E-002301-19, Commissioner Oettinger confirmed that Ukraine has committed itself to criminalising smuggling, which would be an important step towards sharpening Ukraine's regulatory tools for countering illicit trade.

Is the Commission aware of any timeline for Ukraine's criminalisation of smuggling?

Will this issue be on the agenda of the upcoming EU-Ukraine Association Council?