

**Question for written answer E-002014/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Heidi Hautala (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Sale of snus in Sweden, and monitoring thereof

In 1992, the European Union banned the production and sale of snus. According to the Commission, snus is a nicotine product which causes dependence. Using it entails substantial risks to health, and it is a very addictive product for young users.

In its Accession Treaty, Sweden was granted a derogation to allow the sale of snus, and that derogation was extended in 2012. The derogation was granted on condition that Sweden took all necessary measures to ensure that snus did not enter the markets of other Member States. The Accession Treaty also required the Commission to evaluate whether measures relating to the ban on the sale of snus were being implemented effectively.

Sweden has not managed to comply with the conditions attached to the derogation concerning the production and sale of snus. Individuals bring significant quantities of snus from Sweden to Finland. It is legally permitted to import up to 1 000 grams of snus per day per person.

Strong snus is also produced in Sweden, which is little used in Sweden and which is aimed particularly at the Finnish market. Imports of snus into Finland by travellers and the use of strong snus, particularly among young people, in Finland have increased substantially.

I should therefore like to ask:

1. Is the Commission aware that the use of snus gives rise to particular challenges in countries adjoining Sweden? What will the Commission do about this?
2. How does the Commission monitor the implementation of Sweden's derogation, and what will it do about sales of snus from Sweden to other EU Member States?
3. As Sweden has not managed to comply with the conditions attached to the derogation concerning the production and sale of snus, will the Commission take action in relation to the derogation?