

**Question for written answer E-001303/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Sarah Wiener (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Implementation of Directive (EU) 2019/904 with regard to the waste management of cigarette butts

Directive (EU) 2019/904¹ on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment imposes extended producer responsibility on tobacco producers, in order to cover the costs relating to the collection, transport and treatment of filters containing plastic and to inform consumers about and provide incentives for them to engage in responsible behaviour.

However, in the process of implementing this directive and owing to the lack of guidelines from the Commission, some Member States have delegated the waste management of cigarette butts and the development of awareness-raising measures directly to the tobacco industry (e.g. France).

This type of delegation is contrary to Article 5.3 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) which stipulates that Parties must act to protect the implementation of their public health policies from the interests of the tobacco industry. This also applies to the SUP Directive, the objective of which is to reduce the impact of certain plastic products on the environment and on human health. By analogy, the objective of Article 3 of the FCTC is to protect against, inter alia, the devastating health and environmental consequences of tobacco.

How does the Commission intend to remedy this situation? Has the Commission considered drafting specific guidelines for tobacco products to prevent the industry from managing a public service mission?

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¹ OJ L 155, 12.6.2019, p. 1, also known as the Single-Use Plastics (SUP) Directive.