

**Question for written answer E-001408/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Johan Nissinen (ECR)**

Subject: Chewing tobacco

Current EU legislation prohibits the sale of tobacco in the form of snus in the internal market, but allows chewing tobacco in other forms. In this respect, it appears that the current legislation does not properly address the different health risks of these products. For example, highly toxic chewing tobacco produced in India is allowed in the EU internal market, but less harmful snus is not. In France, the tobacco product Makla is also widely available in tobacco stores. Makla is very similar to snus in smell, taste and appearance.

As shown by the low prevalence of smoking in Sweden, where rates are closer to the five per cent target than any other Member State, less harmful products could help reduce the negative effects of tobacco. However, it is strange that products like Makla and the more harmful Indian chewing tobacco are allowed for sale in the EU while snus is not.

1. Can the Commission explain why all types of chewing tobacco may be sold on the internal market but snus may not?
2. Does the Commission not agree that this approach is contrary to the principle of proportionality given that more dangerous products can be bought and sold on the internal market?
3. Does the Commission plan to review this situation?

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