

**Question for written answer P-007188/2011
to the Commission
Rule 117
Paul Nuttall (EFD)**

Subject: Tobacco Products Directive 92/41/EEC amending Directive 89/622/EEC

In the EU, the placing on the market of tobacco products for oral use – with the exception of products to be smoked or chewed – is prohibited. The prohibition was introduced by Tobacco Products Directive 92/41/EEC amending Directive 89/622/EEC. Snus consumers living outside Sweden cannot order snus from Sweden any more. Far from preventing them from using, snus, consumers now order their product from the US. This ban has proved to be ineffective and dangerous for two reasons. Firstly the average length for the product to arrive within an EU Member State is approximately two weeks (basic shipping) whereas it is approximately three days when sent from Sweden. As a direct result of the long shipping time, micro-organisms such as bacteria or mould, which are extremely dangerous to consumers, grow on the product.

Secondly, and especially in an economic downturn, this ban only serves to move production from an EU Member State to the US, which in turn generates lower revenue for Sweden.

In light of these facts, would not it be safer for consumers to allow Sweden to export snus within the European Union?