

**Question for written answer P-006350/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Younous Omarjee (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Independence of the European system for tracking and tracing the parallel trade in tobacco from the tobacco industry

As part of the fight against the parallel trade in tobacco and the establishment of a tracking and tracing system in line with the WHO protocol 'to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products', on 11 October 2018 the Commission published a list of companies authorised to act as primary data warehouse.

The protocol calls for this system to be fully independent from the tobacco industry.

However, it appears that the companies selected by the tobacco industry as primary warehouse of traceability data are historically linked to it, and that most of them have designed and/or implemented the Codentify solution, which is considered by the WHO to be contrary to the protocol.

How can the Commission demonstrate that its system is in conformity with the protocol and is completely independent from the tobacco industry?

Can the Commission demonstrate transparency by publishing the documents on which it based its decision to approve these companies, as well as all the verification procedures and investigations it has carried out on these companies to ensure their complete independence from the tobacco industry?

When does the Commission intend to bring its directives and acts into line with the protocol?