

Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic on European Affairs

70.

Resolution

of the Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic on European Affairs

21 March, 2013

regarding the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning the manufacture, presentation and sale of tobacco and related products (COM/2012/788)

Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic on European Affairs

discussed the proposal for the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member states concerning the manufacture, presentation and sale of tobacco and related products (COM/2012/788), the updated preliminary position submitted according to the section 58a subsection 8 of the act No. 350/1996 Coll. On the Rules of Procedure of the National Council of the Slovak Republic as amended and the opinion of the Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic on Health and

A. approves

submitted preliminary position to the Proposal for the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning the manufacture, presentation and sale of tobacco and related products (COM/2012/788);

B. agrees

with the reservations contained in the Annex to this Resolution;

C. authorises the Committee Chairman

to inform the Minister of Health of the Slovak Republic and the President of the European Commission about the result of the committee's discussion.

Ol'ga Nachtmanová
Jozef Viskupič
Verifier

Euboš Blaha
Chairman of the Committee

Courtesy translation

**Annex to the Resolution
of the Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic on the European
Affairs No. 70**

The Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic on European Affairs welcomes the Proposal for a Directive as an expression of the European Commission's effort to improve the functioning of the internal market in tobacco and to contribute to the protection of the young people from using tobacco products.

At the same time, the Committee expresses its concerns in connection with some provisions of the proposal:

- The Committee doesn't agree with the enlargement of the health warnings covering 75% of the external area of the both the front and back surface of the unit packet. We are of the opinion that the present conditions set for health warnings are sufficient.
- The Committee doesn't recommend accepting the combined health warnings; Committee supports the maintenance of the present situation when the member state can optionally choose to use the combined health warnings.
- The Committee finds the standardisation of cigarettes with a diameter of minimum 7,5 mm not justified, as this provision has no relevance relating to the protection of public health.
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- The Committee finds fully standardised packaging of the cigarettes from the point of view of the packets and dimensions as not justified, as it has no relevance relating to the protection of public health.
- The Committee points out that the proposal contains authorisation for a large number of delegation acts which entitles the European Commission to adopt additional measures beyond the scope of the proposal. EU legislative framework should determine clear conditions for the Member States and subjects of law and should not introduce new exemptions. It should minimize introduction of new optional provisions for the Member States as well as amendments of the adopted legislation by the Commission. It is necessary to prepare new proposals and recommendations for further regulations of tobacco products in a way to involve the Member States in the process of preparation and adoption of the legislation with consideration of their needs and experiences.