



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 19.6.2013  
C(2013) 3744 final

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion on 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 final}.*

*The Commission would like to make the following remarks.*

*The Commission welcomes the Senat's support of the proposed directive and its aim to discourage in particular young people from taking up smoking tobacco.*

*The Senat considers that online sales of tobacco products would facilitate the uncontrolled access to tobacco by minors, which would be contrary to one of the main declared objectives of the proposed directive. The Commission would like to underline that the proposed Directive foresees that retailers who wish to sell tobacco products cross-border would be required to notify their activity to the competent authority of origin and destination. The cross border traders would also be required to ensure that tobacco products comply with the Directive and are not sold to young people under the age limit for purchasing.*

*The Senat considers that the European Union should create an instrument of support for tobacco farmers to compensate them for losses related to the proposed directive. The Commission would like to mention that the Impact Assessment estimates a consumption drop of around 2% within a five year period after the transposition of the Directive. While this would affect economic stakeholders along the tobacco supply chain, the impact is estimated to be limited and proportionate. In addition, the Commission expects some benefits for the industry through reduced costs (one production line) and reduced illicit trade. The effect of the measures put forward in the Commission's proposal is also limited compared to other aspects affecting the tobacco sector, including increased automatization in manufacturing and structural changes in agriculture. The Commission would also like to add that tobacco growers in the European Union, like any farmer, receive EU aid per hectare of land, independently from the crop they produce. Moreover, the Rural Development Programmes foresee and make available financial resources to help farmers that would like to convert their activities.*

*Mr Bogdan BORUSEWICZ  
President of the Senat  
Ul. Wiejska 6  
PL – 00-902 WARSAW*

*The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the comments and concerns raised by the Senat and looks forward to continuing our constructive political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*