

**Question for oral answer O-000105/2013  
to the Commission**

Rule 115

**Michael Theurer**

on behalf of the Committee on Budgetary Control

Subject: Cigarette production and smuggling in the Kaliningrad region

Cross-border cigarette smuggling from Kaliningrad to the European Union (particularly to Lithuania and Poland) is an illegal industry worth, as a publicly available investigation has shown, approximately USD 1 billion<sup>1</sup>.

Over the period 2007-2013 the Union has spent EUR 132 million on the Lithuania-Poland-Russia European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument Cross-Border Cooperation Programme (CBC programme).

1. Does the Commission have clear data on cigarette production in Kaliningrad?
2. What is the Commission's understanding of the problem of cross-border cigarette smuggling from the Kaliningrad region to the Union?
3. What specific measures have been taken under the CBC programme to counteract cigarette smuggling, and which measures have been improved since the Commission's most recent memorandum (published in 2010<sup>2</sup>) on the problem of cigarette smuggling?
4. What measures will the Commission take to improve the prevention of cigarette smuggling, in particular along the Lithuania-Poland-Russia border?
5. Has the Commission already discussed the problem with the Russian authorities? If so, what were the content and results of the discussions?
6. What is the Commission's assessment of the high production output at the Kaliningrad cigarette factory, which is far in excess of domestic consumption and is therefore believed to be destined to be shipped by illegal channels to EU markets? What are the actions that the Commission can take to prevent illegal smuggling into EU markets? To what extent can the EU encourage the Russian authorities to limit the output of the Kaliningrad cigarette factory in order to prevent the cigarettes produced there from being smuggled?

Tabled: 4.10.2013

Forwarded: 8.10.2013

Deadline for reply: 15.10.2013

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.publicintegrity.org/2008/10/20/6353/made-be-smuggled>

<sup>2</sup> [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-10-448\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-10-448_en.htm)