

ASPECTS OF THE TOBACCO MARKET WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND A BRIEF MORAL REFLECTION ON SMOKING

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Abstract

Being transdisciplinary, the work associates an economic and a moral purpose. Economically, the paper analyzes the following indicators specific to the tobacco market in the European Union, such as: areas cultivated with tobacco; total tobacco production; average production per hectare of tobacco; the number of tobacco growers; tobacco consumption per person (for people over 15 years old); the price of tobacco in the main cultivating countries; the value of gross production for the unprocessed tobacco; quantitative imports and exports. This analysis is focused on the period 2011-2017. The results show that in 2017, Italy, Poland, Spain and Greece were the main tobacco growers in the European Union. Bulgaria recorded the largest number of tobacco growers in 2014, and the highest price reached was reached in Greece, Germany, in 2016, ranking third among the world's leading registered tobacco importers. To the economic analysis we associate information about the current and potential uses of the Nicotiana tabacum plant as well as a reflexive moral mark on the impact that smokers (contagious victims) have especially on members of age groups where discernment is not formed (children, pubescent, adolescents) - obtained on the basis of documentation, analysis, synthesis, reflection on the afferent material.

Key words: tobacco, gross production value, exporters, importers, smoking & morality

INTRODUCTION

Tobacco comes from Mexico and is part of the Solanaceae family, the genus Nicotiana [10].

Currently, 70 tobacco species are known, but Nicotiana tabacum is the most important species from the economic point of view. Nicotiana tabacum was distinguished by the following varieties: Virginia, Burley and Oriental.

Virginia variety is part of the "flue-cured" class (the leaves are dried by a hot air stream) and is characterized by a sweet, mellow, aromatic flavour and it has excellent combustion properties. It is grown throughout the world.

The Burley variety belongs to the "air cured" class (dry out in open air until the leaves get a

brown shade). It tastes like a cigar; it is cultivated especially in the US, but also in Europe, Asia, Africa, Central and South America.

Oriental varieties are part of the "sun-cured" class (the leaves are dried by exposure to the sun). They have a very strong flavor and are grown in coastal areas of the eastern Mediterranean, Aegean Sea, Marmara and the Black Sea [9].

According to official statistic data, gross E.U. tobacco production accounts for less than 3% of world production. Currently, the world's leading tobacco producers are: China, Japan and India. Tobacco is grown in 12 countries in the European Union, with the main cultivating countries being Greece, Italy, Poland, Bulgaria and Spain. These cover approximately 85% of the tobacco cultivated

area in the E.U. Due to the decrease in the consumption of tobacco products, the tendency of cultivating this plant on small surfaces appeared. To meet the demand for tobacco products, E.U. imports raw tobacco from Africa and America.

Since 2010 E.U. gave up tobacco quotas and switched to the direct payments system and to the rural development programs in tobacco-growing regions [4].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

For the economic analysis of this study, statistical data relevant to the evolution of the tobacco market in European Union was used. The statistical data was taken from the sites of European Commission / Agriculture and rural development, Eurostat, ITC, FAOSTAT and from other specialized websites. A number of specialized materials have been consulted to better capture the evolution of the tobacco market. The period analyzed in the paper was 2011-2017. The analysis of the tobacco market has been based on several indicators specific to this market, such as: tobacco surfaces; tobacco production; yield per hectare for tobacco culture; the number of farmers cultivating tobacco; tobacco consumption per person (for people over 15 years old); the price of tobacco in cultivating countries; gross production value; imports and exports of unprocessed tobacco.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Nicotiana tabacum – a knife with two edges

Nicotiana tabacum (known as Tobacco) is an herbaceous plant, with annual life cycle; it spontaneously grows in South America and has been adapted to many areas of the planet. Nicotine, the main specific substance of the plant, is very toxic: 5-6 mg of pure substance can cause death and 6 drops of pure substance put on a horse tongue cause death [11].

The natives of the American continent used the plant leaves in the past, dried and soaked, for medicinal purposes, as well as for ritual purposes (the pipe of peace). Since it was brought to Europe, for this plant were also found other uses with a supposed curative

role, and subsequently, based on the practice results, they were abandoned.

However, insecticidal preparations from the plant (maceration extract/infusion and tobacco powder) are currently used. More and more significantly, within the pharmaceutical industry, the nicotinic acid (vitamin PP) from tobacco is used in the treatment of pellagra, but also for neurological or psychiatric conditions such as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, schizophrenia, Tourette's syndrome, peripheral vascular and cutaneous disorders; a derivative, methyl nicotinate, is used in anti-rheumatic, anti-inflammatory and skin circulation activating drugs. There are researchers attributing to tobacco / smoking including, aphrodisiac qualities. Furthermore, it exists in testing phase an anti-decay spray based on the favorable immunological action of tobacco against the caries producing microbe. At the same time, we mention that extensive research is being done to use tobacco as an anticancer plant because it is suitable for genetic manipulation. The tobacco seeds are used for the extraction of edible oil after its previous refining or for the preparation of certain paints, and after the extraction of the oil the seeds get fodder use. Let us mention the melliferous use of this plant with a rich pollen (this paragraph is a synthetic extract from Popescu, O., Achim, A., Popescu, AL., 2012, p 19-20 [11]).

The main “dark side” of *Nicotiana tabacum* comes from its use (by people!) for smoking, even, apparently or in short term, smoking gives satisfaction. It has to be mentioned that generically, a cigarette contains “nicotine, tar and other 150 chemicals, of which 30% carcinogens” [11].

The act of smoking involves the absorption of 96% of the nicotine particles through the mucosa of the airways and through the pulmonary alveoli, as well as the noxious carbon monoxide, which alters the gas exchanges at the pulmonary level, generating emphysema [11].

The long-term negative effects of smoking include: the smoker's respiratory syndrome (cough, expectoration, dyspnea, vague chest pain, chronic bronchitis, chronic pulmonary emphysema); various cardiovascular diseases

(arteritis, phlebitis, hypertension, heart rhythm disorders, ischemic heart disease, myocardial infarction and / or stroke); neoplasm; digestive sufferings; endocrine disorders; decreasing intellectual and physical capacity; hearing loss or, in time, deafness; psoriasis; toxicomania [11].

Of the many statistical results recorded in major pathologies, we only select that at the end of the 20th century smoking was incriminated as the cause of cancer for one third of global cancer cases and about 85% of cases of lung cancer), cardiovascular disease - 25% of deaths, hypertension - 36% of cases [11]; the World Health Organization has established that smoking kills "up to half of its users", "over 7 million people each year" (6 million as result of direct tobacco use and around 890,000 as result second-hand smoke) and "around 80% of the world's 1.1 billion smokers live in low- and middle-income countries" [16].

Economic analysis

Even if the sale of the main tobacco products is subject to public opinion pressures and health risks are known, around 1 billion people are currently smoking in the world. Also, hundreds of thousands of farmers

cultivate tobacco worldwide (see table 4 for the EU number of farmers), millions of people are employed in the tobacco industry, tobacco products are taxed and constitute an important source of income for all states, as it can be seen below [9].

European Union public health specialists have drawn attention to the danger of cancer arising from tobacco use, and the "Europe against Cancer Program" was launched at the end of the 80s [2].

This disease, on the one hand, negatively affects the health of a part of the population, and on the other hand, it contributes to the increase of the annual expenditures incurred by governments for the care of the sick.

At European Union level, due to the negative effects of cigarette consumption, several economic measures have been taken over the years to reduce tobacco consumption among the population [1].

In Table 1 are presented the areas cultivated with tobacco, in 2011-2017, in the main cultivating countries in the European Union. Except for Greece and Portugal, in all the countries under review there is a decrease in the areas cultivated with tobacco in 2017 compared to 2011.

Table 1. Dynamics of tobacco-cultivated areas in the EU in 2011-2017 (thousand ha)

Specification	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2017/2011 %
Belgium	0.06	0.00	0.10	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.05	83.33
Bulgaria	21.70	18.20	20.40	17.31	13.36	9.96	7.72	35.58
Greece	14.80	15.69	19.71	21.77	19.41	18.28	16.99	114.80
Spain	10.17	9.66	9.69	10.22	9.02	8.95	8.76	85.84
France	5.99	5.00	4.38	4.26	3.73	3.53	2.88	48.08
Croatia	5.91	5.96	5.17	5.20	4.75	4.41	4.56	77.16
Italy	22.43	14.78	16.04	18.44	15.20	15.72	15.72	70.08
Hungary	6.37	5.63	4.89	4.82	4.72	4.52	3.98	62.48
Poland	15.90	15.00	14.70	14.61	13.40	12.00	12.89	81.07
Portugal	0.03	0.04	0.07	0.10	0.12	0.13	0.05	166.67
Romania	1.68	1.26	0.94	0.86	0.75	0.93	0.80	47.62

Source: [5], own calculations

From the statistical data presented it can be seen that the highest percentage declines registered in 2017, compared with 2011, in the areas cultivated with tobacco were registered in Bulgaria (-64.42%) and Romania (-52.38%). Greece is the leader of the ranking

of tobacco growers in the European Union, followed by Italy, Poland, Spain and Bulgaria. At the opposite pole, we find the countries where the smallest tobacco surfaces were grown in 2017, such as Portugal, Belgium, Romania, France and Hungary (Figure 1).

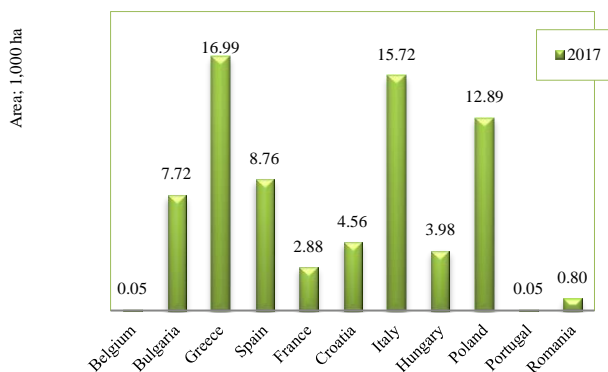


Fig. 1. Tobacco cultivated areas in the European Union in 2017 (thousand ha)

Source: [5]

In the European Union, the number of tobacco growers in the 2011-2014 period registered visible changes. The data presented in Table 2 shows that Bulgaria, Greece and Poland have

been highlighted in terms of the number of tobacco growers. In 2014, Bulgaria recorded the largest number of tobacco growers, 23,720. Even though Bulgaria is the leader of the ranking of tobacco growers in the European Union, in 2014, there is a 30.36% decrease compared to 2011. At the European Union level, in 2014, it is noted that the number of tobacco growers has decreased in all the analyzed countries, compared to 2011, with an exception, Portugal. In 2014, the number of farmers in Portugal increased by 54.84% compared to 2011. This increase in the number of farmers in Portugal is not significant for the European Union's tobacco culture economy.

Table 2. Dynamics of tobacco growers in U.E., 2011-2014 (number)

Specification	2011	2012	2013	2014	2014/2011 %
Belgium	72	69	59	59	81.95
Bulgaria	34,060	20,460	26,424	23,720	69.64
Greece	13,426	14,968	12,544	12,627	94.05
Spain	2,191	2,115	1,986	1,894	86.44
France	1,804	1,700	1,177	1,177	65.24
Italy	4,004	2,971	2,768	1,190	29.72
Hungary	1,101	1,100	1,046	1,046	95.00
Poland	12,300	10,000	11,000	9,000	73.17
Portugal	31	26	42	48	154.84

Source: [3], own calculations

At the level of the European Union, the decrease in tobacco-growing areas led to a decrease in production in 2017 compared to

2011 in most countries, with the exception of Greece and Portugal (Table 3).

Table 3. Tobacco production dynamics in the European Union, 2011-2017 (thousand tons)

Specification	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2017/2011 %
Belgium	0.19	0.10	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Bulgaria	40.60	28.10	36.45	30.00	23.48	15.21	13.04	32.12
Greece	23.86	24.00	26.71	34.30	30.68	29.89	28.23	118.69
Spain	33.69	32.31	31.33	33.56	29.53	29.24	29.68	88.10
France	14.00	-	-	9.45	9.41	9.13	7.90	56.43
Croatia	10.64	11.79	9.83	9.16	10.13	8.98	9.41	88.44
Italy	70.13	50.62	49.77	53.92	51.41	48.47	48.47	69.11
Hungary	10.92	9.30	8.68	9.46	7.95	8.01	7.56	69.23
Poland	34.40	35.30	30.80	34.89	27.30	31.20	32.49	94.45
Portugal	0.07	0.12	0.19	0.23	0.28	0.15	0.12	171.43
Romania	2.56	1.34	1.36	1.41	1.08	1.66	1.22	47.66

Source: [5], own calculations

In 2017, Italy stood at the top of the EU tobacco producers' ranking, with 48.47

thousand tons. In this ranking was followed by Poland (32.49 thousand tons) and Spain,

29.68 thousand tons (Fig. 2).

Tobacco production below 10.00 thousand tons in 2017 was recorded in the following countries: Croatia (9.41 thousand tons); France (7.90 thousand tonnes); Hungary (7.56 thousand tons); Romania (1.22 thousand tons) and Portugal with 0.12 thousand tons (Fig. 2).

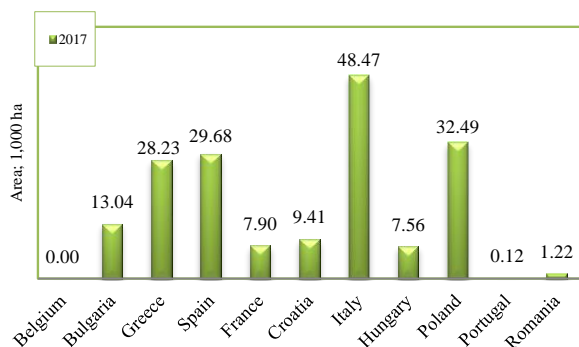


Fig. 2. Tobacco production in U.E. in 2017 (thousand tons)

Source: [5]

According to FAOSTAT data, in 2017, Europe achieved 3.4% of the world's raw tobacco production, ranked fourth, after Asia (62.8%); America (22.8%) and Africa (11.0%). In the top 10 raw world tobacco producers we do not find countries in the European Union. This top in 2017 was made up of: China (2,391,000 tons); Brazil (880,881 tons); India (799,960 tons); United States of America (322,120 tons); Zimbabwe (181,643 tons); Indonesia (152,319 tons); Zambia (131,509 tons); Pakistan (117,750 tons); Argentina (117,154 tons) and United Republic of Tanzania (104,471 tons) [6].

Table 4 shows the average production per hectare of tobacco in the period 2014-2017 for the European Union. The dynamics of the data presented in this table highlights that the average production per hectare for tobacco

varied from year to year and from country to country. Spain, in 2017, ranked first in terms of average crop yield per hectare for tobacco growing of 3.39 tons / ha. For Spain, in 2017, the average production per hectare for tobacco crops increased by 3.66% compared to 2015. Yields per hectare over 2.5 tons in 2017 was also obtained in France (2.74 tons / ha) and Poland (2.52 tons / ha). In France, in 2017, the yields per hectare for tobacco crops have increased with 23.42% to 2014. For Poland: average yield per hectare increased by 24.13% in 2017 compared to 2015. In the rest of the analyzed countries were recorded in 2017, average yields per hectare for tobacco culture below 2.5 tons.

Table 4. Dynamics of average production per hectare of tobacco in the E.U. in 2014-2017 (Tons / ha)

Specification	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bulgaria	1.73	1.76	1.53	1.69
Greece	1.58	1.58	1.64	1.66
Spain	-	3.27	3.27	3.39
France	2.22	-	2.59	2.74
Croatia	1.80	2.10	2.00	-
Hungary	1.96	1.68	1.78	1.90
Poland	-	2.03	2.53	2.52
Portugal	2.24	2.26	1.17	2.40
Romania	1.64	1.45	1.79	1.52

Source: [5]

The price of unprocessed tobacco recorded fluctuations in 2011-2016, as evidenced by the data presented in Table 5. In 2016, the highest price for unprocessed tobacco was recorded in Greece (371 euro/100 kg). In Greece, in 2016, the price of unprocessed tobacco increased by 132.05% compared to 2011. High prices of over 200 euro/100 kg for unprocessed tobacco in 2016 were reported in the following countries: France (283.20 euro / 100 kg); Spain (218.64 euro/100 kg) and Poland (207.53 euro/100 kg).

Table 5. Price dynamics for unprocessed tobacco in the main producing countries of the European Union, 2011-2016 (euro / 100 kg)

Specification	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016/2011 %
Belgium	155.16	155.35	160.78	168.82	177.26	180.81	116.53
Bulgaria	176.98	203.36	187.59	190.68	201.14	149.07	84.23
Greece	159.88	340.27	389.09	353	314.00	371.00	232.05
Spain	187.64	185.60	207.13	214.42	214.14	218.64	116.52
France	249.73	256.27	313.63	313.6	313.60	283.20	113.40
Croatia	116.95	110.09	112.73	115.31	111.40	116.76	99.84
Poland	168.15	160.49	160.08	172.77	189.68	207.53	123.42

Source: [5], own calculations

Prices below 200 euro/100 kg for unprocessed tobacco in 2016 were recorded in: Belgium (180.81euro / 100 kg); Bulgaria (149.07 euro/100 kg) and Croatia (116.76 euro/100 kg). In Belgium, the price of tobacco increased by 16.53% in 2016 compared to 2011. In Bulgaria and Croatia there were decreases in prices for unprocessed tobacco in 2016 compared to 2011, by 15.77% and 0.16%, respectively. The drop in the price recorded in Croatia in 2016 compared to 2011 is insignificant.

In an analysis made for 15 countries worldwide, in 2012, the Czech Republic ranked first in tobacco consumption, for people over 15 years, with 2,328 g, followed by South Korea and Germany. In the last few places, the United Kingdom ranked 970 grams and Norway with 994 grams (Fig. 3).

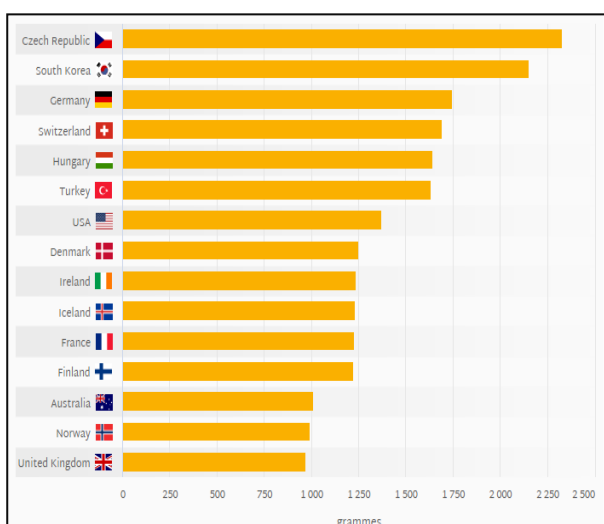


Fig. 3 Tobacco consumption per capita (15+ years old)
 Source: [7]

Table 6 shows the value of gross production of unprocessed tobacco in the European Union in the period 2012-2016. The production value recorded fluctuations from year to year.

Table 6. Gross Production Value in E.U., in the period 2012-2016 (current million US\$)

Specification	Year	Value
Tobacco, unprocessed	2012	709.79
	2013	789.06
	2014	762.75
	2015	584.31
	2016	561.77

Source: [6]

The highest gross production for unprocessed tobacco was 789.06 current US \$ million (2013), and the lowest value was recorded in 2016 (561.77 current US \$ million). In 2016, the gross production for unprocessed tobacco declined by 20.86% over 2012. This decline can be attributed to the diminishing of the raw tobacco production.

Quantitative unmanufactured tobacco imports of the European Union varied between 2011 and 2016 (see Figure 4). The most significant quantitative imports were recorded in 2012 (912,168 tonnes) and the lowest were reported in 2016 (837,628 tonnes). From the statistical data on unprocessed tobacco imports of the European Union, it was found that they diminished in 2016 by 5.9% compared to 2011.

Concerning the value of European Union imports for unprocessed tobacco in 2016, it was \$ 3,966,182, while the value of imports at the world level was \$ 11,712,314.

In 2016, the world's largest importers of unprocessed tobacco and tobacco refuse were: China (\$ 1,133,681); Russian Federation (\$ 921,370) and Germany (\$ 908,825) [8].

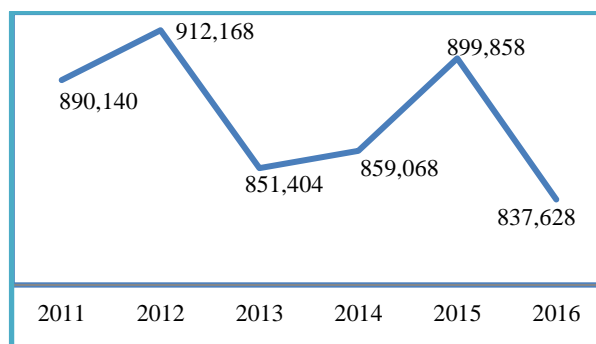


Fig. 4 Quantitative unprocessed tobacco imports related to the European Union in 2011-2016 (tons)
 Source: [8]

At European Union level, unmanufactured tobacco exports from 2011 to 2016 have risen. The most significant quantitative export of unprocessed tobacco was achieved by the European Union in 2016 (524,365 tons). Unprocessed raw tobacco exports of the European Union increased by 34.18% in 2016 compared to 2011, when the lowest quantitative exports were achieved.

In the European Union, in 2016, the value of exports for unprocessed tobacco was \$ 2,738,902.

Between 2011 and 2016, the trade balance for unprocessed tobacco in the European Union was deficient.

Worldwide, the value of exports for unprocessed tobacco and for tobacco refuse was \$ 11,360,187.

In 2016, the world's most representative exporters of unprocessed tobacco and tobacco refuse were: Brazil (\$ 2,054,089); USA (\$ 1,141,935) and Zimbabwe (\$ 887,042) [8].

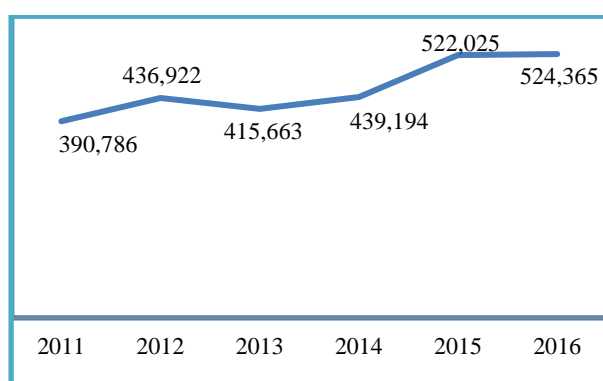


Fig. 5 Quantitative unmanufactured tobacco exports made by the European Union in 2011-2016 (tons)
Source: [8]

It should be remembered that taxation is the most significant intervention to reduce tobacco consumption, especially among young people [14].

There is now evidence to show that tobacco taxation contributes directly and effectively to improving public health, especially by preventing smoking among smokers, but at the same time it supports the reduction of tobacco consumption among smokers [12].

Moral reflection on smoking

People are born without the cigarette in the mouth (which does not exclude smoking predisposition depending on the ascendancy), people could live without it, the non-smokers show it - so smoking won't be from the start a must and fit into the basic needs. However, smoker or not, man, by his nature, remains subject to conditions which, sooner or later, involve critical meetings such as those with physical and psychological pain (particularly moral) and death. Each person, beyond the common attributes of the species, remains an

individual equation with countless variables and unknowns.

Starting from the premises listed above, we formulate the question *is it, morally, condemnably smoking?* To which we envisage the drafting of a firmly affirmative argument in a significant case, namely a vulnerable social category, exposed before the discernment is formed among its members: children, pubescent, adolescents.

Condemnation of smoking, even from a moral point of view (by appeal to consequences), is well grounded by exposing scientific medical data demonstrating the harmful effect on active and passive smokers, and these data were previously synthetically exposed within this paper [13].

In their light, we can conclude that any smoker, who knows the above, accepts that, by smoking, he has opted for a slow suicide. Is suicide morally condemnable? At laic level and at least for the three centuries in Europe, as far as we know, it is not (although, according to the death smoking statistics, it is socially allowed a...damaging, even lethal practice on a medium and long term), still there are arguments from the religious morality (Christian, at least). Even so, it is known that, at the origins of tobacco introduction in Europe, even from a laic point of view, the attitude towards smoking was not globally tolerant - however, gradually, the negative effects of smoking were shadowed by the gains of those who acted on the tobacco market: the vice was legalized.

As in any authentic moral issue, however, not all aspects can be legally regulated, leaving interpretations and loopholes for the development of the tobacco industry (and the direct profit of a small number of investors comparable to the number of annual deaths directly associated with smoking). The vulnerable category with predilection (still not the only one, so are ill/ invalid people with a restrained capacity of movement/decision), immature to be able to see the self-destructive option of the smoker, is made up of children, pubescents and teenagers. I consider them (at least potentially) victims, whether they opt early, unfledged and highly influential, for smoking, whether they are passive smokers,

victims of “veteran” smokers (drug addicts) who, deliberately or not, expose many of them from infancy even from the family environment. The Tobacco Atlas, based on Global Youth Tobacco Survey (where 108 countries completed at least two surveys at some point through 1999-2016), shows that “Globally, the estimated numbers of boys and girls 13–15 years old who smoke cigarettes or use smokeless tobacco products are approximately 25 million and 13 million, respectively” [15].

But as not all children smokers fall into the 13-15 year age category, their number is higher.

The effects of smoking on this vulnerable category can be argument to morally condemn smoking arguing by:

(i) Transforming children into *passive smokers* exposed to physical suffering at least in smokers’ families where no protective measures are taken; children, according to their age peculiarities, have no strong and deliberate defenses, are dominantly chained to the adult's will, like the adult smoker is chained by the drug. There are no regulations on smoking in the private area, and in the case of the family, the child shares this private space with the adult; of course, it is possible to resort in certain critical and known cases to institutions for the protection of the child (getting to trials in tribunals), but the path is sinuous and the genuine protection of the child is really delicate;

(ii) Transforming children into smokers: education and human becoming are made by the power of the example - the examples are fixed in the mental / emotional level, from where the attitudes and the behavior of the human individual work. The repeated contact with smoking-friendly examples can be done either directly or mediated, deliberately or latently: parents, the same age group, mass media and other factors (among which the category of smokers). The psychology of ages is exploited on the tobacco market to create new consumers, although generic the struggle between adults and children means from the beginning uneven forces and control, the domination of the child: from the spirit of imitation of adults, from the desire to be

fashionable, from rebellious, to fill (apparently) an emotional gap, to look mature, many children, pre-adolescents and adolescents succumb to smoking. For the category concerned, subject to greater and more complex pressures than the degree of discernment, the statement “The decision is mine!” promoted through anti-smoking programs and campaigns, is profoundly hypocritical.

Prevention is promoted in parallel with the drug and both are equally legal. Are they equally moral? Is the promotion of drug-addiction, of any kind, moral? Personally, we answer “no” because it fundamentally undermines the (limited) degrees of human freedom, but ... let’s let the only ones free of vices to “throw the stone” first in the smokers.

CONCLUSIONS

During the period 2011-2017, the tobacco market at EU level was highlighted by the following:

- Tobacco cultivated surfaces have fluctuations in the main cultivating countries;
- in 2017, the largest area of tobacco was cultivated in Greece - 16.99 thousand ha;
- the smallest tobacco area in 2017 was reported in Belgium and Portugal - 0.05 thousand ha;
- Bulgaria has been highlighted by the largest number of tobacco growers in the European Union;
- manufactured tobacco products were determined, on the one hand, by the areas cultivated with tobacco and, on the other hand, by the average production per hectare recorded for tobacco;
- the most significant productions in 2017, were made by Italy - 48.47 thousand tons;
- Spain has recorded the highest average production per hectare for tobacco. In 2017, it recorded a record average production of 3.39 tons / ha;
- Greece, in 2016, was noted by the highest price for unprocessed tobacco, namely 371 euro / 100 kg;
- The Czech Republic, in 2012, ranked first in the world, from 15 analyzed countries, in

terms of tobacco consumption, in people over 15 years old;

- In 2013, the highest value for gross raw tobacco production, of 789.06 current million US\$;

- starting from 2011 to 2016, the quantitative imports of unprocessed tobacco have outpaced the quantitative exports;

- Germany, in 2016, ranked third among the top global importers.

Nicotiana tabacum has a wide potential for use. It is valued / exploitable both in the medical industry for declared curative purposes, as well as in ambitious medical research (e.g. genetic manipulation for anti-cancer role, the design of an anti-decay spray - see Popescu, O., Achim, A., Popescu, AL, 2012, p.20 [11], but also as an insecticide, in the chemical industry, food industry and is a melliferous plant. Still, it uses for smoking, even apparently or in short term, gives satisfaction to consumers, also in multiple physical ways as nicotine is addictive. The World Health Organization has established that smoking kills “up to half of its users”, “over 7 million people each year” (6 million as result of direct tobacco use and around 890,000 as result second-hand smoke) [16]. Prevention is promoted in parallel with the drug, both are legal ... and the practice in itself is difficult to be morally evaluated. The most vulnerable category is made up of children, pubes and adolescents; globally estimation indicates that children “13–15 years old who smoke cigarettes or use smokeless tobacco products are approximately 25 million and 13 million, respectively” [15].

We would call *immoral* smoking in any context where children (and any other human) are condemned to secondhand smoke and in any way it corrupts children to become, from childhood, smokers.

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