

EU commissioner resigns after snus scandal

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Associated Press said the European Union's health commissioner resigned Tuesday over corruption allegations involving tobacco laws but has denied any wrongdoing and has vowed to clear his name.

John Dalli reportedly was aware of an attempt at corruption surrounding new legislation on the Swedish tobacco product known as snus.

Swedish Match has filed a complaint about receiving a proposal to influence the outcome of the ongoing review by the European Commission of the Tobacco Products Directive, in exchange for financial compensation, the company said.

“Swedish Match takes this incident very seriously,” the company said in a statement. “The incident was promptly reported to the European Commission, and the report from the Anti-Fraud Office has confirmed that the notification was warranted.”

Snus is a type of smokeless tobacco sold in loose form or in paper sachets that users stuff under their upper lip.

Snus sales are banned in the EU, except in Sweden.