

**Question for written answer E-006938/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Market surveillance at the Port of Rotterdam

In Europe, the Port of Rotterdam alone accounts for almost 10 % of all freight entering the EU market. The latest figures show that this volume is increasing yearly, making the need for effective control measures on imported products essential for good functioning of the EU market. However, a worrying proportion of imported products that do not comply with EU legislation still enter the EU via Rotterdam, creating a potential danger for consumers, but also unfair competition for companies playing by the rules.

Lighters constitute a good example of this situation. In 2010, the Commission wrote to the market surveillance authorities in the Netherlands as the first step in an infringement procedure for non-implementation of the safety legislation on lighters. Since then, the situation has worsened: according to market research carried out by the European Federation of Lighter Manufacturers, in July 2011 87 % of lighter models on the market did not conform to EU safety legislation, a number which had risen to 89 % by February 2016.

1. Can the Commission provide an update regarding the state of the procedure?
2. Can the Commission say whether the dialogue with the Dutch authorities has produced any improvements regarding imports of non-compliant pocket lighters?