

**Question for written answer E-009251/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Counterfeit and piracy goods, illicit commerce

It has long been known worldwide that counterfeiting and piracy (respectively, the infringement of trademarks and copyright, together known as intellectual property, or IP) make up a vast global business. A report published on 18 April 2016 by the OECD suggests that, despite the advent of high-tech countermeasures, it is a far bigger global business than previously thought. According to a Commission survey, cigarettes remain at the top of the list of detained articles (27 %), followed by toys (9 %). Products for daily use accounted for 25.8 % of the total number of detained articles. It is remarkable that, according to a survey by the Directorate-General Internal Market and Services, slightly more than a fifth (22 %) of EU citizens said they had bought a product in good faith, only to find out later that it was counterfeit. Romanians, Lithuanians and Bulgarians were twice as likely as EU citizens on average to have purchased a product that turned out to be counterfeit (47-48 %), while Danes and Swedes were more than half as likely as the average EU citizen to report that this had happened to them (8 % and 9 %, respectively).

What measures would the Commission be prepared to take in order to eliminate counterfeit and piracy goods, and make the EU citizens more aware of this issue?