

**Question for written answer E-005007/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Rachida Dati (PPE)

Subject: Illegal trade in cultural goods and the funding of terrorism

According to the Commission, the illegal trade in antiquities and works of art accounts for an annual turnover totalling EUR 2.5 to 5 million. The Commission notes that 80 to 90% of antiquities sold derive from the illegal trade, and that in some cases the profits may go to financing terrorist activities.

In view of this problem, in July 2017 the Commission proposed a regulation to combat the illegal import and trafficking of cultural goods from third countries.

While this is an important proposal, the Union of Finance Personnel in Europe, which represents customs officials, notes that more human resources are needed to inspect imports into the EU and calls for better staff training to detect cultural goods from illegal trafficking.

On training, the Commission merely announced that training courses would be organised by the Member States for customs and enforcement staff.

1. To harmonise inspections in the EU, does the Commission have plans to organise European training programmes for customs officials to help them combat the traffic in cultural goods?
2. Does the Commission have any plans for additional measures to facilitate the enforcement of this regulation? If so, what are they?