

**Question for written answer E-005352/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Combating counterfeiting

The import of counterfeit goods deprives the EU of economic resources. According to the OECD, the import of counterfeit goods to the EU accounts for the loss of around 800 000 jobs and about EUR 14.3 billion per year in taxes.

Despite the EU's efforts to tackle this, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) notes that differences in how Member States apply EU rules on combating counterfeit goods and differences in the degree of effectiveness of customs inspections are conducive to counterfeiting and therefore considerably harm European companies and their competitiveness.

In the light of this, the EU needs to take action. The EESC has suggested an action plan to strengthen European legislation.

What further measures can the Commission take to combat the production and import of counterfeit goods?