

**Question for written answer E-006894/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Franck Proust (PPE)**

Subject: VAT fraud scandal in the United Kingdom

Action must be taken to prepare for the customs impact of Brexit. In March, an investigation by the European Anti-Fraud Office found that the United Kingdom authorities had turned a blind eye to large-scale border fraud that had given rise to a glut of extremely cheap Chinese products on the European market. The impact is very great: almost EUR 3 billion in lost customs duties for the EU, and more than EUR 3 billion in VAT revenue losses for EU Member States such as France, Germany, Spain and Italy. This case in point demonstrates once again the importance of customs for the single market.

1. How does the Commission intend to prevent such fraud in the internal market? Will additional measures be necessary after Brexit?
2. Has the Commission factored in this instance of fraud when calculating the total amount owed to the EU by the United Kingdom?