

Question for written answer E-007412/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Philippe Juvin (PPE)

Subject: Tackling e-commerce in counterfeit goods

According to the OECD, the trade in counterfeit goods was worth 500 billion dollars in 2013, and 41 million counterfeit items were seized in Europe last year.

The exponential increase in counterfeit trade in the digital age and the diversification of counterfeit goods are damaging our businesses and consumers, who are often directly impacted by the dangers which can be posed by certain products, particularly cosmetic or food items.

By adopting, in June 2017, my report on online platforms and the digital single market, Parliament sent out a strong message, highlighting to the Commission the need for regulation in this area as a means of ensuring consumer safety. In spite of this, however, in its communication dated 28 September 2017 entitled 'Tackling illegal content online', the Commission barely mentioned the challenges posed by this scourge of modern times. By focusing predominantly on tackling online content that vindicates terrorism, it appears to neglect a whole area of illegal content: the trade in illegal goods.

Is the Commission planning to put forward a set of specific, binding proposals that aim to remind the relevant actors of their responsibilities, better protect European consumers against e-commerce in counterfeit goods and inform them of the threat it poses?