

**Question for written answer E-004942/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Dominique Martin (ENF)

Subject: Customs dumping: The Commission uncovers fraud by the UK worth EUR 2.7 billion

In its determination to punish the UK for Brexit, the Commission has, apparently overnight, uncovered a case of dumping involving the country's customs authorities. According to the 24 September 2018 edition of the newspaper *Politico*, the Commission is accusing the British authorities of having allowed importers to evade EUR 2.7 billion worth of customs duties over a period of years by using fake or falsified invoices for Chinese merchandise, as confirmed by a 2017 report by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF). The Commission has thus, for years, stood idly by while the United Kingdom boosted its businesses and job market, to the detriment of neighbouring French factories and, therefore, of our workers.

Has this anamorphosis¹, triggered by anti-Brexit sentiment, led to similar investigations being carried out in the Member States in which the main European ports of Rotterdam, Antwerp, Hamburg and Amsterdam are located?

Given that these British customs duties missing from the European Union budget have been offset by taxes levied from the Member States which are net contributors (mainly Germany, France and Italy), will the Commission reimburse these three States?

¹ Medical term for the voluntary distortion of X-rays to show elements that are usually not immediately visible.