The Communication from the Commission concerning autonomous tariff suspensions and quotas (2011/C 363/02)\(^1\) states that payment of the duties constitute the normal state of affairs and that no tariff suspension or quota measure will be proposed "where a tariff suspension or quota would entail a conflict with any other Union policy (e.g. other preferential arrangements, free trade agreements, trade defence measures, quantitative or environmental restrictions)".

The tariff suspension requests are assessed by the Commission with the assistance of the Economic Tariff Question Group on the basis of the guiding principles set out in this Communication. As the suspension request concerning lithium nickel manganese cobalt oxide (NMC) conflicts with the Union industrial policy of the battery manufacturing sector as well as with the preferential arrangements, the Commission does not envisage to include this product in its proposal to the Council for the Regulation granting suspensions entering into force on 1 January 2019.

Regarding the third question, it is recalled that the autonomous tariff suspensions are applicable to imports from all third countries (\(\text{erga omnes} \) basis); however, as mentioned above, the Commission does not propose tariff suspensions which would entail a possible conflict with any other Union policy.

The Commission's approach to batteries is set out in its "Strategic Action Plan on Batteries"\(^2\), which also sets out how trade policy can foster a competitive and sustainable industry in Europe.

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\(^2\) Annexed to Commission Communication "EUROPE ON THE MOVE - Sustainable Mobility for Europe: safe, connected and clean" (COM(2018) 293 final).