

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0243/02
by Karla Peijs (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Customs issues

The international removals industry, mainly comprised of SMEs, is facing a major problem which undermines its business efficiency and illustrates a lack of a level playing field in customs matters. Removals coming from other continents can be more easily imported by way of the UK than by way of any other port in the EU, where a T-form must be established at point of entry and the consignment has to be cleared through customs at final destination using all documents necessary to prove the primary residence.

Is the Commission aware of this problem, which breaches fair competition between removals companies?

Does the Commission agree that customs rules do not keep up with the speed required in modern society's activities ?

Could the Commission envisage a simplified and harmonised customs form, in which the administrative burden of the proof of residence could be dealt with at a later stage, after the household goods have been imported?