

**Question for written answer E-003158/2011  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Christine De Veyrac (PPE) and Philippe Juvin (PPE)**

Subject: Implementation of the modernised customs code

By adopting the modernised customs code in 2008, the European Parliament gave its support to the creation of a simplified, paperless European customs area, designed to considerably improve the competitiveness of European businesses and facilitate trade flows.

Fundamental to this reform is the concept of centralised customs clearance, which enables economic operators to complete their customs formalities in the country in which they are based, by means of a single electronic window.

All the electronic systems provided for in the modernised customs code are due to be fully operational by 2013. However, the Commission seems to be falling behind schedule with the work of developing the relevant IT systems.

Given this state of affairs, could the Commission say whether the centralised customs clearance system will be ready and fully operational by June 2013?

In view of the degree to which the project has fallen behind schedule, would it not be better to postpone implementation of the modernised customs code, in order to guarantee that businesses enjoy the benefits and simplified procedures which centralised customs clearance will bring, rather than implementing it in several incomplete stages, at additional cost to businesses?