

**Question for written answer E-001639/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Vito Bonsignore (PPE)

Subject: Seizure of goods that are a health hazard

Italy's Guardia di Finanza police have made several seizures in recent months of goods deemed to be hazardous to public and consumer health. Several thousands of items were seized in some cases. For the most part these goods originate in China and do not comply with EU directives or national consumer codes.

The seizures form part of a policy of combatting evasion of commercial taxes, safety regulations and consumer protection rules through coordinated operations.

It seems clear now that there are organised networks importing hazardous or counterfeit goods, or goods that are in any event circulating illegally within the European Union. Reports from the Guardia di Finanza police confirm this. These networks can be traced back to companies located in the People's Republic of China.

1. Can the Commission clarify which programmes govern measures to stop goods that are illegal and hazardous for consumers entering the single market?
2. In particular, is action being taken at present to intercept illegal goods at source, or along their channels to market, as better results can be achieved at this level than after these goods have reached the hands of the distributors, when operations become more difficult and piecemeal?
3. In light of the latest trade agreement with the People's Republic of China, what steps has the Commission taken, in the context of talks on upgrading the agreement, in regard to ways the Chinese authorities might collaborate on anti-fraud actions?