

**Question for written answer E-008624/2013  
to the Commission  
Rule 117  
Csaba Sándor Tabajdi (S&D)**

Subject: Common EU customs system

Member States are permitted to use the 25% refund from customs duties collected at their customs frontiers to cover the costs of collection and also for other budgetary purposes. It is therefore in their interest to conduct as many customs controls as they can at their borders, as goods arriving in the EU can be checked in any Member State. The EU has common customs rules which are the same throughout its territory. The Lisbon Treaty strengthened the authority of the EU in customs policy and trade policy as joint policies. In practice, however, customs procedures remain fragmented. Other parts of the monitoring system, such as the regulation, organisational structure and legal background of risk management, embedded auditing and ex-post checks, can differ between the Member States. This can result in unhealthy competition between Member States as they endeavour to maximise the value of goods controlled at their borders and thus also their customs revenues and the amount of refunds.

In the Commission's view, is the current system of customs checks effective enough, given that there may be 28 different kinds of management, legislative background, system for legal redress and organisational structure?

Does the Commission consider it effective and economical for the Member States to apply and develop different customs control systems with the aid of different development mechanisms?

Would it not be more effective and less expensive if there were a single customs control system in all the Member States?

Is the Commission planning to draw up a legislative proposal to improve this state of affairs?