

**Question for written answer E-007028/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Customs duties for the export of robots to, and their import from, third countries

The term 'robot' describes a wide range of devices. It is used almost indiscriminately for different products and equipment, which vary considerably in their design and purpose. Industrial robots, medical robots, toy robots, service robots or humanoid robots – just to mention a few types.

At a European level, there is still a lack of a common definition of a robot and of its sub-categories. As a consequence of this, customs duties for the export of robots to, and their import from, third countries vary from one Member State to another. Thus, for example, it is perfectly possible that a robot imported from outside the EU will, for the purposes of customs duties, be viewed as a toy in one EU country and as machinery in another.

Is the Commission aware of this problem?

What action is the Commission taking to ensure EU-wide harmonisation of customs duties in the field of robotics?

Does the Commission share the view that an EU-wide definition would provide greater legal certainty in the European sales and procurement market?