

**Question for written answer E-000295/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Jörg Meuthen (EFDD)

Subject: Abolition of the duty-free limit

In 2021 the duty-free limit, EUR 22 plus carriage, will completely cease to exist. Exchanging goods with developing countries can be viewed as a voluntary private form of economic development aid that might benefit small traders in particular. The costs that will arise once the duty-free limit has been removed will act as a punitive tariff payable either to the relevant customs collection point or via the carrier. It is not difficult to understand that if, instead of falling within the duty-free limit, as was previously the case, goods become subject to a charge equivalent to a third of their value or more, the end effect is tantamount to a barrier to trade.

- 1) To what extent does the Commission think that abolition of the duty-free limit will have an isolating effect when it comes to trade with developing countries?
- 2) What possibilities does it see for reinstating the duty-free limit, adjusting it to allow for inflation in the meantime and hence raising it to a level well above EUR 22?