

Question for written answer E-001113/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Online sales of unsafe products

Research by a number of consumer organisations has shown that a significant number of products sold through digital platforms such as Amazon, AliExpress and eBay do not meet European safety standards. These include baby toys with loose parts, balloons containing carcinogenic substances and smoke detectors that do not work properly.

However, under the current legal framework, digital platforms are only required to remove these unsafe products from the platform when problems are identified and they do not need to be proactive to prevent the sale of the products in question.

Unfortunately, in practice, products are often offered for sale again after having been identified as not complying with European safety standards. Various consumer organisations therefore want such digital platforms to be made to assume greater responsibility.

1. How does the Commission view attempts to lay greater responsibility on such digital platforms, for example through the imposition of liability and fines?
2. What initiatives does the Commission intend to take to address these issues, for example through the legislation on digital services?
3. What is the Commission's timeframe for launching such an initiative?