

**Question for written answer E-004189/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Massimiliano Salini (PPE)

Subject: Restrictions on European companies with regard to Indian tender enquiries

A new set of amendments to India's 2017 Public Procurement Order has recently been approved. The new legislation, also known as 'Preference to Make in India', ensures that public administration contracts on goods and services valued below USD 26.5 million are provided by national companies. Furthermore, the products must be at least 50 % 'made in India'.

Particularly with regard to the machine tool sector, the new provisions require that metal cutting and metal forming machinery be produced locally and without foreign participation.

Indeed, participation in a global tender enquiry would be possible only with the approval of the competent Indian authority, representing a heavier administrative burden for foreign companies and raising questions regarding the respect of the principle of transparency.

These new rules limit the participation of European companies in Indian tender enquiries, thereby limiting their access to the Indian market and jeopardising the activity of companies already operating there. The Commission is already aware of this issue.

How does the Commission intend to address this issue, ensuring more transparent and open participation in the Indian market, especially in view of the recent call by VP/HR Borrell to strengthen the EU-India partnership?