Question for written answer E-004486/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Emmanuel Maurel (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Non-compliant lighters

The safety of European consumers must be our priority. However, the Commission's decision to close infringement proceedings against three countries where most lighters fail to meet our standards is worrying.

Opened following a complaint by the French company Bic, these proceedings addressed the issue of lighters failing to meet international safety standards ¹. Eighty-six per cent of lighters sold in these countries reportedly fall short of European standards; most are manufactured outside the EU.

Given the considerable number of accidents and the unfair competition our industries face from companies producing cheap counterfeit or non-compliant products:

1. What does the Commission intend to do to ensure consumer safety in respect of these lighters?
2. What does the Commission intend to do to protect European companies against this unfair competition?

¹ Particularly ISO 9994, which governs flame height as well as resistance to dropping, elevated temperatures and internal pressure.