

**Question for written answer E-006032/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Annika Bruna (ID)

Subject: Ending waste exports to third countries

Since 2018, China has blocked imports of plastic waste from Western countries. These waste streams have been redirected, often illegally, to a number of countries in Southeast Asia, including Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

However, companies in these countries do not always have adequate recycling capacities, hold the necessary permits or comply with environmental standards.

This has prompted various governments in Southeast Asia to return illegal plastic waste containers to their countries of origin, including some EU Member States.

The EU and its Member States must react. We must reduce our waste at source, increase recycling and develop energy recovery centres to supply collective heating networks. But we must also take action against companies that illegally export our plastic waste to third countries.

In light of the foregoing:

1. Has the Commission had contact with the third countries concerned, especially those in Southeast Asia, to identify companies which illegally export our waste?
2. Is the Commission aware of measures taken by Member States to tackle this trafficking?