

**Question for written answer E-006391/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Isabella Tovaglieri (ID)**

Subject: Own resources and impact of the plastic tax

In their desire to recoup a large part of their expenses for the recovery plan through own resources, the EU institutions are treading a fine line in raising funds without further harming the economic sectors which have already been severely affected by the post-pandemic crisis. The future plastic tax, proposed as one of the solutions, raises the doubt that the Commission's primary criterion is more dogmatic than geared towards the real economy, and risks discouraging, rather than encouraging, economic recovery. It is also uncertain how this tax could actually encourage a more rational consumption of plastic.

The risk is that a reduction in European production will contribute only to a certain extent to protecting the environment and the economy, but will open up greater opportunities for imports of foreign goods (plastics and the like) which often have a much greater impact on the environment than their counterparts in Europe.

Can the Commission therefore say:

1. whether, in the light of the positive recovery of some non-European economies, which are capable of manufacturing products that we no longer produce because of the crisis or dissuasive taxes, it will target imports of goods that compete with European ones, also on the basis of their pollution footprint; if so, can it say to what extent it will do so;
2. whether any impact assessments have been carried out as to how the plastic tax can contribute, tangibly, to reducing pollution and how many jobs would be at risk if this tax were to be introduced?