

**Question for written answer E-000269/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Benoît Lutgen (PPE)

Subject: Pallet exchange in the context of post-Brexit trade with the United Kingdom

A large share of the goods transported by road to and from the United Kingdom are delivered on pallets. Current practice is for hauliers to exchange their loaded pallets for empty ones.

This will change with Brexit. All pallets entering the European Union must comply with International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures Publication No 15 (ISPM 15) and the pallet exchange policy. This will affect the 100 million pallets exchanged with the United Kingdom every year.

Under the new rules, hauliers are responsible for cleaning and disinfecting the pallets to make them compliant with ISPM 15.

To avoid such a complex situation, does the Commission intend to introduce a German-style system of pallet hire and to ban pallet exchanges in trade with the United Kingdom?