

**Question for written answer E-000678/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Krzysztof Jurgiel (ECR)

Subject: Amendment proposed by the Czech Parliament to the Act on Food and Tobacco Products in the Czech Republic

The Czech Parliament has revised the provisions of the Act on Food and Tobacco Products. Under the new provisions, at least 55% of the goods available in shops covering more than 400 m² will have to be produced in the Czech Republic, a figure which will rise to as much as 73% from 2028.

These changes appear to be protectionist in nature and will undoubtedly constitute a barrier to access to the Czech market for Polish and European food exporters. Actions which discriminate against a particular country or group of countries or which give an advantage to goods from the country of production are unacceptable from the point of view of European regulations. Creating restrictions to market access and barriers to trade is detrimental to consumers in the EU. The principle of the free movement of goods is crucial for Europe's single market.

Whilst the need to protect national economies is understandable, such actions give rise to serious doubts about their compliance with EU law. They run counter to the principle of the Union's common market, which is an area in which the free movement of goods, people, services and capital is possible.

My question is this: Will the Commission take action aimed at preventing the introduction of these protectionist changes, which will undermine the smooth operation of the EU's single market?