

**Question for written answer E-001398/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Inma Rodríguez-Piñero (S&D), Margarida Marques (S&D), Paolo De Castro (S&D), Raphaël Glucksmann (S&D)

Subject: India to raise duties on European imports

During her Budget speech of 1 February 2021, Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that India will raise the duties on a number of imports, which will affect EU exporting companies in a number of sectors, namely agriculture and fisheries (including cotton and silk), chemicals, plastics, leather, gems and jewellery, machinery and car parts, as well as metal products.

The increase does not violate any trade rules, as India had not consolidated these duties in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Nevertheless, this move affects European businesses and workers who are already in a delicate situation economically, while Indian exports continue to benefit from the Generalised Scheme of Preferences¹ on the EU market.

1. Can the Commission specify what level of exports would be adversely affected by this protectionist measure and how many businesses and jobs in Europe depend on exports to India?
2. What does it intend to do to convince India to not implement this duty increase?
3. Will it raise this issue at the next EU-India summit in May?

¹ The Generalised Scheme of Preferences removes import duties from products coming into the EU market from vulnerable developing countries.