Question for written answer E-002413/2021 to the Commission

Rule 138

Raphaël Glucksmann (S&D)

Customs and import control measures against products of forced labour on the EU Subject:

internal market

On 12 April 2021, an Uyghur victim and three NGOs filed a complaint with the Paris Prosecutor's Office against several transnational clothing companies (Inditex, Uniqlo, SMCP and Sketchers) that may be involved in Uyghur forced labour schemes through their suppliers. Despite numerous reports and evidence of the systemic forced labour of Uyghurs in Xinjiang, many companies continue to use slave labour in their value chains, via their subcontractors and suppliers in China, before placing their goods and services on the EU internal market.

- Is the Commission aware of this complaint, and does it consider this issue a risk to the unity and harmonisation of the EU single market?
- Does it intend to develop specific customs and import control measures to ensure that no products made from forced labour are placed on the EU market?
- Will it review the Union Customs Code to ensure transparency and public disclosure of customs data, and will it amend customs-related regulations to ensure that critical information about goods brought into the EU, such as the names and addresses of manufacturers, is made accessible to customs authorities?