

**Question for written answer E-002608/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Spanish digital services tax (Google tax)

We recently learned that the Spanish Government's approval of a national digital services tax (Google tax) has prompted the US to announce a proposal to impose tariffs of an additional 25% on a number of Spanish products, including footwear. These products are already subject to a levy of 10% but this latest tariff would raise taxes on them to 35%.

Spain is the second biggest producer and exporter of footwear in Europe; Spanish footwear production accounts for 70% of the European figure. Together with Italy and Portugal, it is a global leader in the production of high-quality footwear.

If the tariff hike were to be introduced, it would cause irreparable damage to employment levels. It would be a disaster for the sector and the families that depend on it.

In the light of the above:

1. Is the Commission considering negotiating with the US to prevent these fresh, damaging levies from being introduced?
2. Will it call on national governments to implement policies that do not harm exports to or agreements with the US?
3. Does it know whether the Spanish Government is preparing direct aid for that sector or whether it intends to include it in the distribution of EU funds (in line with the relevant requirements)?