

**Question for written answer E-003653/2021**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Annika Bruna** (ID)

Subject: Increased recycling of electrical and electronic waste (e-waste) and combating trafficking

According to the European Court of Auditors<sup>1</sup>, one tonne of smartphones 'contains [about] 100 times more gold than one tonne of gold ore'. Many other electrical and electronic items contain recyclable metals, including computers, tablets, household appliances, electrical tools or even solar panels.

European countries already collect and recycle more items than most other countries. As stated by the Court of Auditors, 'the EU currently recycles about 80% of the e-waste it collects'.

This reduces mining pollution, limits landfill waste and reduces our dependence on imports.

However, there is still a need to further enhance recycling. Unscrupulous firms that extract only valuable materials, without reprocessing the remaining materials, which are sometimes abandoned in illegal landfills, need to be held to account. In particular, the illegal shipping of this waste to third countries must stop.

In the light of the above:

1. What action is the Commission taking against the trafficking of e-waste waste within the EU and to third countries?
2. Does it support the action taken by Member States to identify infringements, bring more prosecutions and impose harsher sanctions?
3. Does it believe that there are adequate port controls in place to stop this trafficking?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/Pages/NewsItem.aspx?nid=15397>