

**Question for written answer E-005148/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Lars Patrick Berg (ECR)

Subject: Lack of transparency in the implementation process for the World Customs Organization Harmonized System (HS) nomenclature 2022

The Harmonized System (HS) nomenclature is used worldwide for the uniform classification of goods traded internationally. In 2019, the World Customs Organization (WCO) adopted recommended amendments to the HS nomenclature scheduled to enter into force on 1 January 2022.

The 2022 version of the HS makes crucial changes to the HS rules on a wide range of goods. These include the recognition of new products that take account of new provisions for product classes.

These changes require adaptations to the EU's own combined nomenclature (CN) via the Customs Code Committee, which meets behind closed doors. The process of adapting the EU CN is therefore lacking transparency for parties impacted by the changes.

In contrast, the US International Trade Commission published its modifications to take account of the HS2022 changes and offered the public the opportunity to submit written comments.

1. How does the process of adapting the EU CN reflect on the Commission's commitment to transparency?
2. Why has there been no public consultation on the EU CN, which would have allowed consumers and businesses to voice their opinions?
3. Why is the Commission not holding public consultations of stakeholders on this matter?