

**Question for written answer E-002158/2022**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Filip De Man (ID)**

Subject: EU: increasing trade deficits

A recent Eurostat report shows that the EU recorded a trade deficit of EUR 27.7 billion in March 2022, compared with an EUR 18.7 billion surplus a year earlier, with imports rising by 40.4% to EUR 248.2 billion and exports growing more slowly, by 12.8%, to EUR 195.5 billion. The EU's trade deficit with Russia more than quadrupled to EUR 45.2 billion in the first quarter; and the trade gap with China, the EU's largest trading partner, almost doubled to EUR 91.9 billion.

The EU's trade deficit with China and Russia, among other countries, cannot be accounted for solely by dependence on external commodity suppliers. Trade deficits on this scale threaten to turn the EU into a giant with feet of clay, in the very short term, while China and Russia only gain power. Switching to a different energy supplier will not have a positive impact on the trade deficit.

1. What impact will the Green Deal have on the EU's trade balance in the short and medium terms?
2. What specific measures does the Commission intend to take to cut the trade deficit in the short term?