

**Question for written answer E-003962/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Roman Haider (ID)

Subject: EU consumer protection rules when making purchases from third countries

At present, it can prove difficult to invoke the Union's consumer protection rules when buying products from third countries, even though these rules should in principle apply.

The European Parliament has recently agreed on stricter consumer safeguards in online trade. This should make it possible to remove dangerous products from the market more quickly. These provisions concern goods originating from third countries that do not comply with the Union's directives¹.

Product warranties are to be extended and arrangements for refunds, repair payments and returns are to be improved. This will enable companies to be held accountable. In future, responsible parties will be obliged to ensure compliance with safety standards and will be liable for any damage caused by defective products.

1. How does the Commission assess the risk that, as in the cosmetics industry where animal testing-free brands cannot sell their products in vast swaths of Asia for instance, this could render certain desired products from third countries unavailable in the Union?
2. To what extent will companies have to take more responsibility for their products if the safety staff who are supposed to check compliance can be liable to prosecution?
3. Who, in the Commission's view, who will bear the additional costs of incurred by companies' implementing higher levels of consumer protection and more stringent standards for many products?

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¹ N. Conzett: 'Amazon und Co.: EU bestimmt mehr Konsumentenschutz bei Online-Käufen', <https://www.watson.ch/international/eu/331025452-amazon-und-co-eu-bestimmt-mehr-konsumentenschutz-bei-online-kaeufen>, 29 November 2022