

**Question for written answer E-000603/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: The EU's trade deficit

The European Union registered a trade deficit of EUR 431 billion in 2022, which is worrying after it had recorded a surplus of EUR 55.1 billion the previous year, according to Eurostat figures.

One notes that European exports increased by 17.9 % in 2022, but that imports also increased, and this by 41.3 %.

The deficit has mainly been driven by a 113.6 % increase in energy imports from outside the EU, against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine and the energy crisis.

In this respect, there has been a twofold increase in the EU's trade deficit with Russia and a fivefold increase in its deficit vis-à-vis Norway. The 32.1 % increase in Chinese imports has also pushed up the EU's bilateral trade deficit with that country from EUR 250.3 billion in 2021 to EUR 395.7 billion in 2022.

1. What does the Commission's estimate the EU's trade balance will be in 2023?
2. What measures is it considering to balance its trade dynamics with third countries?

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