

**Question for written answer E-001752/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Guido Reil (ID)

Subject: Reform of the EU Customs Union

On 17 May 2023, the Commission published its proposal for reforming the EU Customs Union. The aim is to create a 'simpler, smarter and secure Customs Union'. A new EU Customs Authority will oversee an EU Customs Data Hub, which will act as the engine of the new system.

In my view, any changes should primarily contribute to:

- strengthening the competitiveness of the EU economy;
- rendering economic processes and operations in customs legislation and customs clearance flexible;
- lessening the burden on reliable businesses and the customs administration by focusing on key risks and reducing red tape;
- assisting small and medium-sized enterprises in the conduct of customs processes in foreign trade.

I should therefore like to ask the following:

1. Does the Commission share my view that the collection of customs duties should primarily serve as an economic policy instrument rather than a purely fiscal instrument to fill the EU coffers, and that the scope for error and the effort involved in checking customs declarations should be reduced?
2. If so, are marginal tariff rates of less than two per cent coming under careful scrutiny?
3. Will the tariff rates defined in the EU Common Customs Tariff (TARIC) be clustered and decimal places eliminated?

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