

**Question for written answer E-001753/2023
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 a reform of the EU customs union. The aim is to create a 'simpler, smarter and safer 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, the changes should primarily contribute to:

- strengthening the competitiveness of the EU economy;
- laying down flexible business processes and procedures in customs legislation and for customs clearance;
- reducing burdens on trustworthy businesses and the customs administration by focusing on key risks and cutting red tape;
- assisting small and medium-sized enterprises with customs processes relating to foreign trade.

In this context:

1. Does the Commission agree that reducing the number of commodity codes in the Combined Nomenclature, and in the TARIC database based thereon, would reduce the burden on businesses and customs authorities?
2. Does the Commission agree that decreasing the number of codes in customs declarations and scrapping waiver codes can help reduce the likelihood of errors as well as the burden related to checking export and import declarations?
3. What steps are being taken in these areas?

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