

**Question for written answer E-000603/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Protecting EU companies against unfair competition in the form of foreign subsidies

Russia and China remain the strongest trade partners of the Central Asian countries. European businesses are struggling to win contracts in the region and will soon be forced to withdraw from Central Asia completely due to the hugely unequal economic and financial conditions under which goods can be supplied to the countries of Central Asia.

While China offers its companies strong support in the form of state-funded credit and export insurance rates, European companies are bound by the financing terms and conditions agreed at OECD level. The applicable minimum interest rates and minimum premium rates significantly increase the prices of their products and consequently prevent them from offering competitive prices to customers in Central Asia.

The threats to the competitiveness of EU companies in these important markets also jeopardise Europe's established access to Central Asia.

1. Is the Commission aware of the distorted competition that EU businesses face due to being unilaterally subject to rigid OECD rules?
2. Which means can the Commission offer to support EU businesses in this regard?
3. Does the Commission intend to encourage EU Member States to take national/unilateral measures from their side to remedy the distorted competitive framework for trade with Central Asia?

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