

**Priority question for written answer P-003472/2023  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Marek Belka** (S&D)

Subject: Customs duties and third-country retailers

Customs duties are one of the EU's own resources, with 75 % of the customs collected by the Member States supplying the EU budget. At the same time, various foreign companies, such as the Chinese company Shein, often tend to divide a single customer order into several smaller ones in order to avoid paying customs duties, while undermining labour rights. Not only is this unsustainable when it comes to environmental protection, but it also undermines the EU's income from said duties. In terms of competitiveness, this practice is also damaging towards our European retailers.

Therefore, considering how crucial customs duties are for the functioning of the EU, and also the fact that such third-country companies often ignore labour rights and environmental protection laws by selling cheap products to Europeans while disregarding the common good:

1. Is the Commission aware of such practices?
2. Could it react with further steps to prevent single orders from being divided into several packages in order to avoid customs duties?

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