

Question for written answer E-002050/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

Nicola Procaccini (ECR), Salvatore De Meo (PPE)

Subject: Possible competitive advantages of Chinese e-commerce platforms and implications for the safety of European consumers

In recent years, a number of e-commerce companies based in third countries, particularly China, operating under a direct-to-consumer model, have benefited from significantly reduced international shipping costs. It was possible initially as a result of the preferential tariffs provided for by the UPU (Universal Postal Union) system, which continues to classify China as a developing country, despite its current economic position, and then through direct commercial agreements with European postal operators, on account of the companies' large shipping volumes.

This mechanism enables Chinese companies to obtain very low delivery tariffs, distorting competition. Despite the 2019 reform of the UPU, competitive inequalities and market fragmentation persist, penalising European operators and favouring those who do not adopt strict rules on product safety, traceability, liability and taxes.

At the same time, growing numbers of low-value consumer products, such as toys, are being placed on the market, and they often circumvent customs controls, exposing consumers – especially children – to potential health and safety risks.

In view of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of this state of affairs and what steps will it take to provide a level playing field in the internal market?
2. With a view to improving European consumers' safety, will it propose stricter controls on parcels from third countries?

Submitted: 21.5.2025