

**Question for written answer E-004369/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Problems caused by online sales

A number of large companies outside the EU selling cheap products by mail order have recently aggressively expanded their marketing and operations into European countries.

Legitimate concerns about the adequacy of product safety regulations have been raised in many EU Member States. The resources of customs and supervisory authorities are also insufficient to cope with the new situation.

What is more, the traditional means of consumer advice are unable to respond to the problems that can be caused by the massive trade in cheap products with large foreign companies.

People naturally have the right to buy the products they want from the companies of their choice, as long as this is done legally, but where necessary, regulation must be able to respond to the problems caused by the new situation. Furthermore, the products concerned do not necessarily meet European product safety standards.

In recent days, we have heard shocking news of how one online shop that has been selling child-like 'sex dolls' is opening a large store in the heart of Europe, in an old Parisian department store. Such items have also been on sale in other online shops.

With the above in mind, what plans does the Commission have to address the problems caused by online sales from outside the EU, and in particular to prevent the sale of criminal material?

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