Question for written answer E-000120/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Strengthening Europe's printed circuit boards & electronics production

Printed circuit boards (PCBs) and electronics manufacturing services (EMS) are indispensable components of Europe's technology ecosystem. Their relevance continues to grow as digital systems become more complex, and as the reliability and quality of these downstream manufacturing steps increasingly determine the safety, performance and resilience of final products.

Europe's position in both segments has eroded dramatically: China now accounts for 58.7 % of global PCB manufacturing, while the EU's share has fallen from 20 % in 2000 to just 2 %. In EMS, Europe's share has declined from 22 % to 10 %. This growing dependency raises significant concerns for the EU's technological sovereignty and industrial competitiveness, and the security of its critical infrastructure and defence systems.

1. Does the Commission intend to provide targeted support for European PCB and EMS manufacturing through EU instruments, and how might the forthcoming revision of the Chips Act[1] strengthen their role within Europe's microelectronics ecosystem?

2. How does the Commission assess the impact of the current customs regime, under which base materials are subject to duties while finished PCBs enter duty-free, on Europe's competitiveness and security of supply, and whether existing trade defence instruments are adequate to address market distortions in this sector?

3. Is the Commission planning to introduce European-sourcing criteria for PCBs and EMS for use in critical infrastructure and defence-related applications to reduce strategic vulnerabilities?

Submitted: 14.1.2026

[1] OJ L 229, 18.9.2023, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/1781/oj.