

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002108/24
to the Commission
Dimitris Tsiodras (PPE)
(16 October 2024)**

Subject: Protecting consumers from imports of illegal and dangerous toys into the European market

Many illegal toys are imported into the European market through online platforms from companies established in third countries, without complying with EU toy safety rules and without duties being paid ⁽¹⁾.

This not only puts children's health at risk, it also creates conditions of unfair competition because the companies in question do not conform to the legislative framework in place.

In view of this:

1. How does the Commission plan to deal with these imports, ensuring that these companies comply with the rules, just like their European counterparts do, by effectively implementing the traceability provision ⁽²⁾, in particular as regards online platforms and traders established in third countries?
2. What steps will it take to ensure better handling of the large volume of imports which the relevant authorities have to deal with?

Submitted: 16.10.2024

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(18 December 2024)**

Several legislative reforms address online sales of unsafe toys from third countries, including the following.

From 13 December 2024, online sales of toys via e-commerce webshops or providers of online marketplaces will be subject to the General Product Safety Regulation (GPSR) ⁽¹⁾ which includes specific product safety obligations for all providers of online marketplaces that target EU consumers.

The GPSR requires, *inter alia*, that those providers register with the Safety Gate Portal, maintain internal product safety processes, act swiftly on dangerous products, ensure that traders display safety and traceability information, and cooperate with market surveillance authorities ⁽²⁾.

Those obligations complement the ones, related in particular to traceability of traders and compliance by design, under the Digital Services Act ⁽³⁾.

In July 2023, the Commission proposed a new Toy Safety Regulation ⁽⁴⁾. It would require all toys to have a digital product passport (DPP) with compliance and other information on the toy that can be immediately accessible via a data carrier (such as a QR code). Importers should submit DPPs at the EU borders, including for toys sold online.

IT systems should screen all DPPs at the external borders and identify shipments that need detailed controls at customs. National inspectors will continue to be responsible for carrying out checks on toys. This proposal is currently being discussed with the European Parliament and Council.

Further, the proposed reform of the EU Customs Union ⁽⁵⁾ would strengthen the capacity of customs and other authorities to enforce compliance with EU rules on imports, including for e-commerce imports.

¹ The toys are imported in small parcels worth under EUR 150 to avoid customs duties.

² Traceability of traders, Article 30 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market for Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act).

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2023/988.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2023/988 Article 22.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2022/2065.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2023) 462.

⁽⁵⁾ https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/customs-4/eu-customs-reform_en