

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000376/25
to the Commission
Liesbet Sommen (PPE)
(28 January 2025)**

Subject: Problems within e-commerce

The problems within e-commerce have been known about for some time. At present, 20% of clothing bought online comes from China, 30-40% of which reportedly does not meet EU standards. Packages generally contain goods that are not so costly and therefore avoid stringent customs controls. Consequently, checks are carried out on only 0.005% of packages (1 in 20 000). That means that many illegal products, such as smart vapes, are also entering the European market.

Will the Commission work towards stricter rules on textiles labelling so that consumers can more easily identify products with a poor or a good social score and environmental score?

On 31 October 2024, the Commission opened formal proceedings against Temu under the Digital Services Act. On 5 February 2025, in addition, Commissioner Virkkunen will be presenting a communication on tackling challenges relating to e-commerce platforms.

1. Many products from non-European platforms, such as Shein, reportedly do not comply with REACH, current environmental standards, rules on consumer protection and labelling standards. Does the Commission recognise these problems, and what will the Commission do to address them?
2. Hungary acts as a conduit for Chinese products that do not comply with European rules. What can the Commission do to close that conduit?

Submitted: 28.1.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(5 June 2025)**

The communication on a Comprehensive EU Toolbox for Safe and Sustainable E-commerce ⁽¹⁾ proposes a series of measures to address challenges posed by e-commerce imports.

In this regard, the Commission calls on the co-legislator to swiftly adopt the customs reform and to reinforce it with a handling fee on e-commerce parcels.

Moreover, the Commission has proposed a priority control area on e-commerce imports shipped directly to consumers with the cooperation of market surveillance authorities.

An EU regulatory framework is in place to prevent the presence of hazardous substances in textiles, including imported ones. Under the regulation on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) ⁽²⁾ several substances are banned or restricted and others may follow should it be warranted.

The Commission supports Member States' efforts in enforcing the regulation via the Forum for Exchange of Information on Enforcement ⁽³⁾.

Moreover, in line with the findings of its recent report ⁽⁴⁾, on the application of the Consumer Protection Cooperation (CPC) Regulation ⁽⁵⁾ the Commission is reflecting on a review of the regulation in order to further strengthen the enforcement of EU consumer law.

The Commission is also envisaging a revision of the Textile Labelling Regulation and new eco-design requirements applicable to imported products.

The Digital Services Act (DSA), through compliance by design ⁽⁶⁾ and risk management provisions ⁽⁷⁾, aims to ensure that products sold on online marketplaces are compliant with relevant product safety and other legal requirements.

⁽¹⁾ COM/2025/37 final.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2006/1907/oj/eng>.

⁽³⁾ <https://echa.europa.eu/about-us/who-we-are/enforcement-forum> The Forum aims to support Member States to increase compliance with the REACH and the regulation on Classification, Labelling and Packaging -Regulation (EC) 1272/2008.

⁽⁴⁾ Consumer reports show the need for strengthened enforcement at EU level https://commission.europa.eu/news/consumer-reports-show-need-strengthened-enforcement-eu-level-2024-07-25-0_en#:~:text=The%20Biennial%20Report%20provides%20an%20overview%20of%20activities,biggest%20challenges%20for%20consumers%20in%20the%20near%20future.

⁽⁵⁾ L_2017345EN.01000101.xml.

⁽⁶⁾ Art. 31 DSA.

⁽⁷⁾ Articles 34 and 35 DSA.

The Commission opened respective investigative actions and initiated proceedings under the DSA ⁽⁸⁾ complemented by coordinated actions under the Consumer Protection Cooperation network ⁽⁹⁾.

⁽⁸⁾ Investigative actions in relation to SHEIN and Amazon and initiation of formal proceedings against AliExpress and Temu: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/list-designated-vlops-and-vloses>.
<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-sends-request-information-amazon-under-digital-services-act>.
<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-requests-information-online-marketplaces-temu-and-shein-compliance-digital-services-act>.
<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-opens-formal-proceedings-against-aliexpress-under-digital-services-act>.
<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-opens-formal-proceedings-against-temu-under-digital-services-act>.

⁽⁹⁾ Coordinated action against Temu and SHEIN: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_5707.