

EN

E-000509/2025

Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(25.4.2025)

1. On 5 February 2025, the Commission adopted its Communication on a comprehensive EU toolbox for safe and sustainable e-commerce¹ which outlines the Commission's comprehensive approach to addressing the e-commerce related challenges, including a series of specific measures.

As regards customs, the Commission calls on the co-legislators to swiftly adopt the EU customs reform, which proposes structural changes to improve the efficiency of the customs authorities. It also includes Value Added Tax (VAT) measures to secure the collection of VAT via the Import One Stop Shop² and making suppliers liable for VAT at import. The Commission will also coordinate intensified e-commerce targeted customs and market surveillance controls in a priority control area.

2. In the Communication the Commission also describes how it aims to bring about a level playing field between non-EU e-commerce traders and EU retailers. This includes removing the EUR 150 duty exemption and aligning the customs rules with VAT rules, as in the customs reform proposal. Regarding textiles, the Commission is considering ecodesign requirements under the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation³, which would also apply to imported products. To protect consumers in the EU a comprehensive legal framework is in place, including the Digital Services Act⁴ which sets clear obligations and responsibilities for online marketplaces and seeks to ensure that traders can only sell products that are compliant with the relevant product safety and other requirements in the EU, including the General Product Safety Regulation⁵.

3. The Clean Industrial Deal⁶ (CID) outlines concrete actions to turn decarbonisation into a driver of growth for European industries. As circular economy is one of the drivers defined in the CID, this principle also has its bearing on the textile industry. To this end the Commission is working on the first Ecodesign Working Plan⁷ setting out horizontal, ecodesign requirements for certain groups of products that among others covers textiles. For the textiles ecosystem it is essential to develop sustainable products from the outset to create a competitive advantage in green business models. In addition, the Commission stands ready at all times to take the appropriate measures to ensure that EU standards are being complied with and to protect European consumers and businesses in the face of global competition and geopolitical uncertainties.

¹ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/e-commerce-communication-comprehensive-eu-toolbox-safe-and-sustainable-e-commerce>

² https://vat-one-stop-shop.ec.europa.eu/index_en

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1781/oj/eng>

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32022R2065>

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/988/oj/eng>

⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025DC0085>

⁷ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52022XC0504\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52022XC0504(01))