

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001161/25
to the Commission
Pierre Juvet (S&D)
(19 March 2025)**

Subject: Measures announced by the Commission in its communication on e-commerce

Over the past three years, Europe has seen a huge influx in imported goods sent directly to consumers by e-commerce intermediaries. However, these products often do not comply with European safety standards or are subject to unfair trading practices. The volume of e-commerce products imported is doubling every year.

To address this issue, on 5 February 2025 the Commission announced measures to make customs and market surveillance authorities more resilient and more effective.

1. The reform of the Union Customs Code, the cornerstone of these proposals, is still under discussion. Given that progress on this is slow and that the current expected implementation date is 2028, will these measures not come too late?
2. The Commission has proposed non-discriminatory handling fees for imported goods delivered directly to consumers. What would they consist of?
3. Is the idea that the platforms would increase product prices so as to absorb these costs? If so, has the Commission considered the fact that these platforms are already selling at a loss, meaning that this measure would do nothing to dissuade them?

Submitted: 19.3.2025

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(14 May 2025)**

The Commission's 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 aiming to bring a level playing field based on effective customs, tax and safety controls and sustainability standards by using the tools at its disposal, and by proper coordinated enforcement of EU legislation. 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.

During the ongoing negotiations on the Customs Reform proposal, the Council is making progress in getting to a common approach ahead of trilogue negotiations, with the view of an adoption in 2025. In addition, the Commission is willing to bring forward the parts of the customs reform related to e-commerce, in particular the establishment of the EU Customs Authority and preparations for the EU Customs data hub for e-commerce to a date earlier than 2028.

In the meantime, the Commission will coordinate intensified customs and market surveillance authorities controls on e-commerce as part of the Priority Control Area and as a horizontal Coordinated Activity for the Safety of Products as announced in the communication.

The Commission is willing to explore with the co-legislators the introduction of such a fee to address the scaling costs of supervising the compliance of huge amounts of individual parcels. This fee should be internalised by the retailers and intermediaries, thus by the importer, i.e. the online retailer or intermediary, and not by the EU consumers.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2025)0037 final <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/e-commerce-communication-comprehensive-eu-toolbox-safe-and-sustainable-e-commerce>.