

EN
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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(4.9.2025)

On 5 February 2025 the Commission adopted a Communication titled ‘A comprehensive EU toolbox for safe and sustainable e-commerce¹’. It outlines the Commission’s comprehensive approach to addressing the challenges posed by e-commerce imports into the EU across their entire life cycle. In its Communication, the Commission proposed to introduce a non-discriminatory handling fee for imported goods delivered directly to consumers. The rationale behind such a fee would be to address the scaling costs of supervising the compliance of such consignments with EU rules. This fee should be incurred by the importer, i.e. the online retailer or intermediary (online platform), and not by consumers at the point of delivery of the imported package.

The amount of the fee would be commensurate to the services rendered by the customs authorities, thereby compensating the EU Customs Union for the costs incurred.

The handling fee and its set-up is part of the discussions on the broader Customs Reform proposal², currently under negotiation by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union³.

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

² Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Union Customs Code and the European Union Customs Authority, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 952/2013 (COM/2023/258 final).

³ Council Presidency compromise text of 20 June 2025 REV 1 (10017/25 – UD 131, CODEC 764, ENFOCUSTOM 96, MI 365, ECOFIN 732, COMER 87, TRANS 233, FISC 137, RESPR 13).