

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003883/25
to the Commission**

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(3 October 2025)

Subject: Coffin imports from China and dumping practices

Italy's coffin production sector, historically one of the biggest in Europe, is now being profoundly undermined by imports from China, which account for some 60% of the share of the national market.

According to available data, coffins cost around EUR 260 to produce in Italy and around EUR 80 in China, which makes it possible for Chinese coffins to be sold on the European market for between EUR 100 and EUR 110.

That difference cannot be chalked up to greater efficiency but rather to unfair production conditions and a failure to meet European standards, circumstances which effectively amount to a dumping practice that has already led to the closure of numerous Italian companies and the loss of jobs.

Another serious concern is the use in Chinese manufacturing of toxic paints banned in the EU, as those paints release carcinogenic micro-particles during cremation that cannot be filtered, which has repercussions for public health and the environment. Those products enter the market without effective customs controls or checks.

In the light of the above:

1. Will the Commission launch an anti-dumping investigation and introduce definitive and retroactive duties?
2. What steps will it take to ensure compliance with EU environmental and health standards?
3. To prevent evasive practices, does it consider it appropriate to step up customs controls?

Submitted: 3.10.2025

Answer given by Mr Šeřčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(5 December 2025)

The EU takes robust action to protect its industries from unfairly traded imports and at present has over 200 measures in place.

As regards anti-dumping, the Commission takes action to defend EU industry from dumped imports when the conditions are met. The Complaints Office of Trade Defence Services can be contacted to discuss the procedure ⁽¹⁾.

There is also comprehensive information on the trade defence website ⁽²⁾ including guides, the evidence and information required as well as the time frame for investigations.

Products placed on the EU market must comply with applicable EU legislation, including the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals regulation and relevant environmental and product safety standards.

Member States are responsible for enforcement at national level and the Commission cooperates closely with the relevant authorities to ensure consistent and uniform application.

Any evidence of the use of prohibited or toxic materials, such as toxic paints releasing carcinogenic micro-particles during cremation, should be followed up with the competent market surveillance and customs authorities.

1 trade-defence-complaints@ec.europa.eu.

2 https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/enforcement-and-protection/trade-defence_en.

The Commission recognises the importance of effective customs and market surveillance controls in preventing the entry of non-compliant or unsafe products.

Customs and market surveillance authorities in Member States carry out the checks based on risk assessment. The Commission is encouraging the active exchange of customs risk related information, and the close cooperation between customs and market surveillance authorities to detect and prevent circumvention and ensure that imported products meet EU requirements.
