

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004879/25  
to the Commission  
Georgios Aftias (PPE)  
(10 December 2025)**

*Subject:* Imposing maximum fees on Asian platforms to save businesses and jobs

As a member of the European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, I would like to draw the Commission's attention once again to a huge problem troubling millions of healthy businesses in Europe and threatening millions of workers with unemployment.

The Commission will be aware that the European economy is suffering relentless blows at the hands of Asian platforms, causing turmoil in all European markets, with businesses closing and jobs being lost due to the sale of goods below the cost of production.

OLAF is also sounding the alarm, warning of — in addition to the negative effects on economies — the major issue of the quality of the products sold by these platforms at below-cost prices.

As a result, central chamber of commerce associations, trade associations and economic chambers have requested that the maximum special fee of EUR 9.99 be imposed on small parcels and that products traded in and entering the EU be taxed equitably, in order to prevent the impending collapse of European markets. This is being requested by central chamber of commerce associations, trade associations, trade unions and manufacturing enterprises.

In light of the above, can the Commission say:

1. Will it provide immediate solutions?
2. Will it impose the maximum fee of EUR 9.99 on these imports?

Submitted: 10.12.2025

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission  
(10 March 2026)**

In its communication on A comprehensive EU toolbox for safe and sustainable e-commerce in February 2025 <sup>(1)</sup>, the Commission outlined its comprehensive approach to addressing the challenges posed by e-commerce imports.

Following the Commission's suggestion, the Council agreed to introduce, in its mandate for the EU Customs Reform <sup>(2)</sup>, a non-discriminator EU handling fee, commensurate to the services rendered by customs authorities for the importation of e-commerce goods.

The amount and final design of the handling fee are still under discussion in the Customs Reform interinstitutional negotiations. The handling fee is envisaged to apply from 1 November 2026.

In the meantime, on 12 December 2025, the Council agreed <sup>(3)</sup> on a temporary customs duty of EUR 3 per item in a consignment of which the intrinsic value does not exceed EUR 150. It will apply from 1 July 2026 on most goods directly shipped to EU consumers from third countries. This duty will help protect European businesses by levelling the playing field between e-commerce imports and traditional retail.

Due to the very low average value of e-commerce items imported into the EU (less than EUR 10), the Commission considers the amount of EUR 3 appropriate, also considering that from November 2026 onwards, the EU handling fee would also be applied on these items.

The Commission is also using its strong enforcement powers under the Digital Services Act <sup>(4)</sup> (DSA). On 17 February 2026, the Commission opened a formal investigation into Shein under the DSA regarding the risk of illegal products being disseminated on its platform, its addictive design, and the transparency of its recommender system.

The Commission is also continuing to work diligently on the ongoing proceedings against AliExpress and Temu.

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

<sup>(2)</sup> [https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/customs-4/eu-customs-reform\\_en](https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/customs-4/eu-customs-reform_en).

<sup>(3)</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_25\\_3045](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_3045).

<sup>(4)</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj/eng>.