

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005012/25
to the Commission
Daniel Buda (PPE)
(18 December 2025)**

Subject: Ensuring a level playing field for manufacturing imports from third countries

The increasing volume of manufacturing imports from third countries is posing a major challenge to Europe's economic competitiveness. While EU producers conform to high standards on safety, quality of materials, traceability and environmental protection, no equivalent guarantee is provided for many of the products entering the internal market via Europe's ports. This asymmetry is liable to distort competition, shrink European industrial investment and put pressure on jobs in sectors exposed to global competition.

At the same time, the lack of rigid transparency over the actual origin of the components, manufacturing conditions and technical compatibility is creating problems for the control authorities. There are still major differences among Member States in the way imported products are checked, resulting in an uneven application of EU standards. Only a common, cohesive and consistently applied framework can reduce the risk of products not complying with EU rules entering the market, thereby protecting both consumers and European industry.

What action will the Commission take to ensure that industrial imports from third countries are subject to the same safety, quality and traceability standards as products manufactured in the European Union, including by tightening up border controls and harmonising practices among Member States?

Submitted: 18.12.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(17 March 2026)**

Through the revision of the Market Surveillance Regulation ⁽¹⁾, as part of a European Product Act (EPA), the Commission aims at ensuring a level playing field between EU and non-EU manufacturers.

The revision will focus on closing regulatory loopholes that undermine enforcement of EU product compliance. It will consider imposing stricter accountability requirements on authorised representative of foreign manufacturers, introducing clearer compliance requirements across the entire supply chain and relying on tools like the Digital Product Passport (DPP) to speed up and make more effective checks across all EU Member States.

Through the EPA, the Commission will also address the differences in market surveillance practices among Member States by better pooling resources and expertise of all national authorities and by boosting EU testing capacity in key areas.

In addition, and subject to the results of the impact assessment, the Commission may consider introducing an EU-level market surveillance in strategic priority areas, such as e-commerce imports from third countries, where national measures may not be sufficient.

The Commission coordinated a joint priority control action carried out by customs and market surveillance authorities supporting coherent enforcement. The results show notably high non-compliance of third-country products bought online (more than 50%).

The EPA as well as the upcoming customs reform are expected to structurally reinforce the capabilities of EU customs to supervise and control the flow of goods entering and leaving the EU Customs Union.

Additionally, the Commission is progressively deploying the EU Single Window Environment for Customs, which enables the authorities to access and verify relevant regulatory information (e.g. DPP) automatically and in real-time.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02019R1020-20240523>.