

**Question for written answer E-000865/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Online traders from non-EU countries – Question 3 of 4

Temu and other Asian e-commerce companies can ship their products from China to the EU without paying postage. This is because the Universal Postal Convention ensures that companies from countries which have or have had a lower level of economic development can send letters and parcels at domestic rates. Since Chinese suppliers often do not even appear to pay domestic postal charges, we can presume that the latter is being subsidised by the state in some way. This clearly favours Chinese suppliers over suppliers from EU Member States, who always at least have to pay domestic postal charges. It is therefore cheaper to order a product from Shanghai than from the neighbouring village, even if the product itself is just as expensive.

1. How does the Commission plan on tackling this case of competition distortion?
2. How much economic damage does the Commission estimate has been caused so far?

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