



Invitation and Program

Online symposium on illegal imports via online platforms at the expense of the environment and consumers

„Blind spot online sales: How to stop illegal imports via online platforms?“

Web conference on the 27th of March 2023 via Zoom organized by Environmental Action Germany (DUH)

Massive amounts of products are sold to consumers from outside the EU via online platforms such as Amazon, AliExpress or Wish. Such imported goods often do not comply with existing environmental and consumer protection legislation. These non-compliant products including electronic goods, children's toys, car parts or cosmetics pose a threat to the environment, risk health and safety of consumers and amplify unfair competition with retailers offering compliant goods. So far, it is regularly not possible to take effective legal action against infringements originating from outside of the EU.

Current legislative attempts fail to provide a solution to illegal imports via online platforms. The Digital Services Act (DSA) missed the opportunity to establish liability or sufficient due diligence obligations for online platforms. This is crucial as online platforms enable and profit enormously from the import of large quantities of products from outside the EU. Therefore, it is necessary to tackle this issue in further EU legislation, such as the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR), Product Liability Directive (PLD), the Waste Framework Directive (WFD) or the amendment of the Directive on Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) or at national level.

This online symposium addresses the urgent matter of illegal imports via online platforms. Various experts will present the scale and its impact on consumers, the environment and industry, and explain current shortcomings in EU legislation. Insights on best practices and potential regulatory solutions will provide a solid foundation for the subsequent political panel discussion. Key questions and measures to effectively stop the import of illegal products via online marketplaces will be discussed with policy makers, industry and NGO representatives: *How should EU legislation such as ESPR, PLD, WFD or WEEE-Directive be developed to ensure that buying products via online platforms is safe and environmentally sound? What obligations shall be imposed on online platforms to prevent illegal imports? Which approaches have been implemented at national level to address that pressing issue and how can they potentially be adapted in EU? What options do member states have to address illegal imports nationally?*

We are looking forward to your registration for the online symposium. Please register by 26th of March, 2023 using the online form on our website (<https://www.duh.de/projekte/symposium-illegal-imports-via-online-platforms/>). You are welcome to forward this invitation to interested parties.

Kind regards

Barbara Metz

Executive Director of Environmental Action Germany
(Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V. - DUH)

Online via Zoom

You will receive all necessary information via e-mail after registration.

Organisation

Environmental Action Germany
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Program	
13:45	Digital Arrival Moderation: Viktor Miruchna, <i>Adviser for Circular Economy at Environmental Action Germany (DUH)</i>
14:00	Opening Statement Barbara Metz, <i>Executive Director of DUH</i>
14:10	Presentations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Impact on the environment and consumers by illegal imports through online platforms” Miriam Thiemann, <i>Sustainable Consumption Campaigner at European Environmental Bureau (EEB)</i> 2. “How does free-riding via online platforms put European consumers and business at risk?” Lars Vogt, <i>Director EU Policy at Toy Industries of Europe (TIE)</i> 3. “The Digital Services Act: the gateway for third country sellers to place non-compliant products on the internal market” Linda Leffler Olsson, <i>Head of Brussels Office for The Swedish Trade Federation</i> 4. “Examples of current member state attempts to address the pressing issue of illegal imports via online platforms” Lucie Long, <i>Environmental Consultant at Eunomia Research & Consulting</i>
15:10	Break
15:20	Impulse for the Panel Discussion: “Potential Solutions to effectively address illegal imports via online platforms and ensure environmental sound and safe products bought online” Viktor Miruchna, <i>Adviser for Circular Economy at DUH</i>
15:30	Panel Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthias Schmidt-Gerds, <i>Head of Unit Market Surveillance (DG GROW D.3.), European Commission</i> • MEP Malte Gallée, <i>Member of Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) and Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer (IMCO), European Parliament</i> • Sophia Krügel, <i>Adviser Public Affairs, Independent Retail Europe</i> • Linda Leffler Olsson, <i>Head of Brussels Office, The Swedish Trade Federation</i> • Philipp Sommer, <i>Deputy Head Circular Economy, Environmental Action Germany (DUH)</i> Moderation: Viktor Miruchna, <i>Adviser for Circular Economy at DUH</i>
16:30	Open Discussion
17:00	Closing Statement