

**Question for written answer E-006101/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea (ALDE)

Subject: Restrictions on free movement of goods at the Spanish-French border

On 17 July 2014, some 150 French nationals blocked the passage of a number of lorries carrying fruit grown in Spain and burnt the merchandise while the French authorities turned a blind eye. Actions of this kind have occurred repeatedly for decades now, without any progress being made towards rectifying the problem. Back in 1997 the Court of Justice of the European Union ruled in its judgment of 9 December 1997 (Case C-265/95), which was final, that the French Republic was in breach of Community law. The French Republic has failed to fulfil its obligations under the Treaty on European Union in regard to taking all necessary and proportionate measures to ensure that the free movement of fruit and vegetables is not obstructed by actions by private individuals.

1. Will the Commission take action in light of these events to investigate what happened and, if necessary, impose appropriate sanctions?
2. Is the Commission thinking of taking stronger measures to ensure safe passage in the future and that the French Government guarantees transport of goods as normal?
3. Has the Commission considered implementing measures to compensate Spanish businesses for financial losses suffered as a result of this obvious infringement of their rights?