

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2801/03
by Pedro Marset Campos (GUE/NGL)
to the Council

Subject: Special tolls in France and Germany for the transport of goods by road

The announcement that the French and German authorities will shortly impose special tolls for lorries travelling through those countries on the motorways is likely to cause justified alarm in the Murcia region (Spain), particularly in the farming industry, since it might have adverse effects on the transport of fruit and vegetables from Murcia to various EU countries.

1. Is the Council aware of this situation?
2. Does the Council not consider it appropriate to demand that this measure should not be implemented, given that the charges are discriminatory and damaging?
3. Does the Council take the view that these French and German measures may violate the free movement and transport of goods in the EU?
4. Does the Council not believe that, if they were to be implemented, these measures would be most damaging for the most outlying European regions, such as the Murcia region which remains an Objective 1 region? Does this measure not represent flagrant discrimination among regions?
5. Does the Council not believe that, at a time of economic recession in the euro zone, these measures would damage economic recovery in a key sector such as the transport of goods by road?