

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0780/09

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to the Commission

Subject: The continuing total blockade of all border crossing points between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Hellenic Republic

It has been 10 days since the start of protests by Greek farmers who are blocking vehicle traffic across the Bulgarian-Greek border. Goods vehicle movement across the border has been suspended. Over 1000 Bulgarian goods vehicles are currently blocked at the border crossing at Kulata, with a 15 km tail-back. Over 500 more remain blocked at the border crossing at Kapitan Petko Voyvoda, and over 300 at the Zlatarevo border crossing.

According to the Bulgarian Association of Road Transport Unions, the continuing total blockade of all border crossing points between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Hellenic Republic has caused considerable financial losses for Bulgarian hauliers. Currently, a thorough analysis of the losses is being carried out by the Bulgarian authorities.

The Bulgarian Members of the European Parliament acknowledge the fundamental rights and freedoms of European citizens. However, we consider that the consequences of the Greek farmers' protests are detrimental to all European citizens, in particular to hauliers from Bulgaria and the other EU Member States transporting to and transiting the territory of Greece. Moreover, the lack of any remedial measures by the Greek authorities to find a reasonable solution to this crisis seriously threatening to breach the fundamental principles of the internal market, such as free movement of goods and persons.

With regard to these circumstances:

1. Has the European Commission taken all necessary action provided for under Regulation (EC) No 2679/98 to eliminate major obstacles to trade? Does the European Commission envisage improvements in existing procedures under Regulation (EC) No 2679/98<sup>1</sup>, or in a proposal to amend the Regulation, so that the right of free movement of goods and persons is duly respected?
2. What additional measures or actions can the European Commission to improve the situation?
3. What are the possible remedies at European level for compensating for the losses resulting from the continuing total blockade?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 337, 12.12.1998, p. 8.