

**Question for written answer E-006784/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Krzysztof Jurgiel (ECR)

Subject: Customs clearance problems for EU exporters of agricultural products to the United Kingdom

The United Kingdom is supposed to strike a deal with the EU before 31 December, but pessimism reigns on both sides of the negotiating table. Yet regardless of whether a deal is struck, we can expect the first few months of the new year to be overshadowed by total chaos at the borders, particularly at the transshipment hubs of Calais and Dunkirk. The report by the European Liaison Committee for Agricultural and Agri-Food Trade presented at the last meeting of Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development warns about significant customs clearance delays. It is a widely known fact that the time spent on customs clearance is an absolutely crucial factor for exporters of perishable goods, particularly dairy products and fresh fruit and vegetables. In the light of the above:

1. Has the Commission made provision for the payment of compensation to EU exporters that suffer material losses as a result of border clearance delays? If so, how much compensation will be paid, and which procedures must be followed by exporters wishing to apply for that compensation?
2. Is the Commission planning to produce a simplified overview of guidance on the new customs rules and procedures in all the official languages and to ensure that that overview is readily available to businesses in the Member States, with a view to ensuring that exporters and importers are aware of the new administrative duties they must perform?
3. Have the computerised systems used in Calais and Dunkirk undergone stress testing based on a hard Brexit scenario?