

Question for written answer E-001177/2022/rev.1
to the Commission
Rule 138
Pascal Arimont (PPE)

Subject: Tonnage authorised for international transport

On 31 July 2021, Decree No 2021-1006 of 29 July 2021 on the weights and dimensions of motorised land vehicles and amending the highway code was published in the French Official Journal. The text states that from 1 January 2022, it will be illegal to transport 44 tonnes or more between France and Belgium. That tonnage will be allowed only for national transport – i.e. on French territory alone – and for vehicles with at least five axles.

1. France refers to a Commission ‘injunction’ to justify its changes to the highway code and the obligation imposed on it to limit cross-border transport to 40 tonnes. What exactly did the injunction lay down?
2. In theory, Belgium should have received a similar injunction, given that the Benelux Agreement does not apply to cross-border transport to and from France. Will the Commission produce that injunction?
3. Given the additional transport costs and increase in CO2 emissions arising from the additional traffic generated (up to 15% in some sectors), what steps will the Commission be taking to remedy this state of affairs?