

**Question for written answer E-003364/2022/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (Renew)

Subject: Concern in a Euroregion over the closure of border crossings between Spain and France

In January 2021, the Pyrénées-Atlantiques prefecture closed nine border crossing points between that department and the autonomous communities of the Basque Country and Navarre. Today, the crossings at Larrau, Les Aludes and Ispéguy and the Hendaye pedestrian bridge are still closed, while the other five are subject to strict checks. This measure is undermining the increasingly stable, fluid and close personal and economic ties that have been created in a cultural community which also shares a common language. With a view to bringing an end to the disruption and mobility problems for people who use the crossings on a regular basis, the authorities of the Euroregion affected by the closures have asked for the crossings to be reopened. The closures and checks are difficult to justify for operational reasons.

Given that the action taken by the French authorities is covered by law and that this measure falls within the competence of the state:

1. Has the Commission carried out any visits to find out about the situation on the ground?
2. Is there any procedure to defend the Euroregion's claims or to convey its concerns to the French authorities?
3. Does the Commission think that a study of the socio-economic and cultural impact of the closures could be carried out?