

**Question for written answer E-000187/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Ban on transporting waste to Austria since 1 January 2023

The Austrian Government has imposed new unilateral obligations for the transport of waste since 1 January 2023. According to the Waste Management Act, waste that has to be transported over road distances of more than 300 km from 1 January 2023, 200 km from 1 January 2024 and 100 km from 1 January 2026 must be transported by rail or other means of transport with an equivalent or lower greenhouse gas or pollutant potential.

This obligation comes over and above other existing restrictions on road freight transport, exacerbating the current situation.

As a result, in the absence of proper coordination at EU level, road waste transport companies will opt for longer road routes, with higher costs, charges and environmental impacts.

Moreover, the measures affect the north-south and east-west routes in the EU in different ways.

In view of this:

1. Has the Commission been informed of these measures?
2. Does it believe that these bans infringe the existing rules on the free movement of goods and services and on fair competition in the EU?
3. How will it ensure that EU law is respected once again and guarantee adequate compensation for the Member States and companies affected by these and other existing measures?

Submitted: 23.1.2023