

**Question for written answer E-000777/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Ana Miranda** (Verts/ALE)

**Subject:** Ongoing closure of French-Spanish border crossing points in the Basque Country and Navarre

On 1 November 2022, the French Government notified the Commission that it was going to extend for a further six months the border checks and closures in force since January 2021. Protests by local authorities and neighbourhood groups had resulted in the reopening of some of the points, albeit with police checks. As of February 2023, however, five border crossing points were still closed (Hendaye freight bridge (now a pedestrian bridge), Port de Larrau, Aldudes, Ispéguy and Iturzaeta).

In response to a previous written question, the Commission urged the French Government to look at alternatives to the border closures and stated that such measures were legitimate as 'a last resort measure to address ... extraordinary circumstances' if applied 'in accordance with the procedures set out in the Schengen Borders Code'. The most recent notification of temporary closure of border crossing points is due to expire on 30 April 2023.

1. Does the Commission believe that there are extraordinary circumstances that are legitimate grounds for the French authorities' closure of border crossing points or that such measures are a last resort?
2. Does the Commission believe that France's decision to extend for a fifth time the closure of certain crossing points complies with the Schengen Borders Code and EU citizens' right to free movement, enshrined in the TEU?

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