

**Question for written answer E-002233/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Border crossings between Spain and France repeatedly closed without justification

After closing the Santiago bridge in Irún for two years, the French authorities reopened the border crossing for the third stage of the Tour de France (Amorebieta-Hendaye), closing it immediately afterwards. The Euroregion and the area's mayors have expressed their bewilderment at this behaviour, which is harmful to the close relations of all types among those who live around the border. What is more, during the process to reform the Schengen Borders Code (2021/0428(COD)), most parliamentary groups were opposed to those kinds of arbitrary closures. They called for limits on how long such closures could last, supported a requirement to demonstrate the risks cited as justification and proposed sanctions procedures to be applied if those conditions were not met. The Council included similar ideas in its general approach on the file published on 9 June 2022.

I would therefore like to ask:

1. During the reform process, what steps is the Commission taking to remedy this state of affairs?
2. Does the Commission know what reasons France has given as a pretext for closing the border crossing?
3. Does the Commission plan to meet authorities in the area and decision-makers in the Euroregion to find out more about the situation first hand?

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