

**Question for written answer E-003133/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Boycott by French winemakers of Spanish products at the border between both Member States

On 19 October 2023, around 500 French winemakers blocked the Le Perthus border crossing with Spain to demand an end to imports of Spanish wine. The blocking of the tollbooth on the Le Boulou highway and the looting of trucks with the aim of 'halting Spanish imports' accompanied the protest<sup>1</sup>. Over the years, Spanish citizens have requested that the Commission address the situation several times as French winemakers have repeatedly committed these acts before<sup>2</sup>, making the current situation even more troublesome.

These actions, encouraged by the Aude winemakers' union, constitute a violation of the principle of the free movement of goods in the internal market<sup>3</sup>. Furthermore, they represent an obstacle to the rights of citizens to engage freely in commercial and business activities throughout the EU<sup>4</sup>.

Council Regulation (EC) No 2679/98<sup>5</sup> establishes special procedures to counter serious obstacles to the free movement of goods that cause significant losses to those affected and require immediate action.

Thus,

1. Has the Spanish Government sent any information to the Commission regarding this harmful barrier to the single market?
2. Is the Commission satisfied that all necessary and proportionate measures are being taken for France to ensure the free movement of goods? If so, will the Commission ensure that losses are compensated?

Submitted: 23.10.2023

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2023/10/19/french-wine-imports-protest-spanish-cava-boulou-trade/>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.euractiv.com/section/agriculture-food/news/spain-lodges-complaint-after-french-vandals-attack-wine-lorries/>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/glossary/free-movement-of-goods.html>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=457>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/ALL/?uri=CELEX:31998R2679>.