

**Question for written answer E-003626/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Alessandro Panza (ID)

Subject: Connectivity of Alpine crossing points with a view to safeguarding the free movement of goods and persons: protection of businesses and individuals

The main routes for freight traffic to and from Italy are: Ventimiglia, Fréjus, Mont Blanc, Semplon, Gotthard, Brenner and Tarvisio.

At many of these crossing points, there are crossing problems, sometimes owing to external factors, sometimes to political choices, and they are causing considerable damage to businesses, transport and the Italian economy:

- a major landslide has blocked the Fréjus crossing and the French authorities have been slow to provide transparent information with a view to a swift resolution of the total shutdown of rail traffic;
- traffic passing through the Gotthard Tunnel has been halved as a result of a derailment;
- the Mont Blanc Tunnel will be closed for maintenance and, for environmental reasons, the French authorities have not provided alternative solutions;
- the Brenner Pass is subject to unilateral restrictions by Austria, on environmental grounds which are not substantiated by the facts;
- the completion of the Lyon-Turin fast line could be delayed to 2040 owing to delays on the French side.

In the light of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of the significant economic and environmental damage arising from the isolation caused by those events?
2. Does it think that, with a view to safeguarding the free movement of goods and people in the EU, a 'European' approach is needed for the connectivity of the Alpine system?
3. Would it be useful to introduce a management mechanism to protect connectivity in the event of accidents along cross-border sections?

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