

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3840/07  
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to the Commission

Subject: Traffic congestion in Biriadou

On 22 June 2006, a delegation from the EP Committee on Transport visited the tollgate at Biriadou in order to familiarise themselves 'in situ' with the enclave's traffic congestion problem.

The meeting was attended by representatives of GUITRANS, a member of the Spanish Goods Transport Federation, and we were told that the existence of four tollgates within a space of 70 km (Irún, Biriadou, Biarritz and Benesse-Maremne) causes large-scale chaos in economic, environmental and social terms, and that all the administrations concerned need to be involved in finding a solution. A year later, conditions remain virtually unchanged, with traffic constantly being held up over and over again.

On 22 June 2007, GUITRANS again requested those responsible in the ASF, to convert the current bus lane to accommodate heavy vehicles, so that there would be permanent provision of four passageways for such vehicles, until such time as the Biriadou tollgate is done away with and the toll is collected at the following gate by means of an appropriate system of compensations between the licensees. The ASF was very receptive to this proposal, but three weeks after the meeting, no response had been made to this reasonable and reasoned request, whose implementation poses no problems.

The principle of freedom of movement of persons and goods between Member States, enshrined in the Treaty and the Schengen Agreements, is being trampled underfoot on a permanent basis, without the authorities taking the requisite steps to guarantee a normal flow of traffic instead of the current chaos, which causes prejudice to the transport companies both in terms of its effect on their normal daily work and the fact they have to carry all the costs arising. The French authorities have a quite specific precedent near at hand in the remodelling of the La Junquera tollgate on Spanish territory, which was carried out, on a French initiative, and has significantly alleviated the traffic problems which existed there.

Does the Commission intend to take any steps or propose any kind of solution to the French or, if appropriate, Spanish authorities to resolve this problem which becomes more acute every year when the summer holidays arrive?