

WRITTEN QUESTION P-6492/08  
by Luigi Cocilovo (ALDE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Austria - sectoral traffic ban

The opening of infringement proceedings against Austria, in January 2008, leading on 6 May 2008 to the issuing of a reasoned opinion, which is the last stage before referral to the Court of Justice, has not been followed by action. In the meantime, the traffic ban applicable not only to polluting vehicles but also to ones transporting certain goods has come into effect, occasioning serious financial losses to haulage companies and to the Italian economy as a whole.

Does the Commission not consider that it should immediately refer this matter to the Court of Justice and at the same time request that it suspend that ban, as it violates the principle of the free movement of goods, which is one of the fundamental principles of the Treaty?

This would also mean that the bans on other categories of goods, such as vehicles, marble, travertine and tiles, which are due to enter into force on 1 January 2009, could be avoided.