

Priority question for written answer P-001668/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Gianna Gancia (ID)

Subject: Need to safeguard the Italian agrifood sector during the COVID-19 emergency

The Italian agrifood and haulage industries are in crisis owing to the restrictive measures adopted by its neighbouring Member States to combat the Covid-19 pandemic, and especially following the imposition of severe traffic limitations at the Brenner Pass.

These limitations are having a serious impact not just on passenger traffic but also on the transport of perishable goods, which is threatening to paralyse the whole of Italy's agrifood industry.

That industry accounts for 25% of Italy's GDP and provides work for over 3.8 million people.

In essence, these blocking measures have severed trading links between Member States, in open violation of the EU Treaties.

In the light of the above, can the Commission, and more particularly Commissioner Breton, who is responsible for the internal market, say what will be done to ensure that the transport of perishable goods through the Brenner Pass can continue? Are there plans to introduce coordinated Member State measures to prevent Italy's agrifood industry from suffering further economic damage?