

**Priority question for written answer P-000925/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Isabel García Muñoz (S&D)**

Subject: Closure of the border crossing at Bielsa-Aragnouet

France decided unilaterally in January 2021 to close some 20 border crossings between Spain and France on safety grounds. While some have now reopened, over a year later others, such as the Bielsa-Aragnouet border crossing, are still being closed at night. This measure has been criticised on both sides of the Pyrenees; no justification for it has been given and it is having a serious socioeconomic impact, particularly on travel for cross-border workers and tourists.

The Commission has stressed on a number of occasions how important it is for the EU's internal market to keep road transport flowing constantly. Given that this border crossing is vital to freight and passenger traffic:

1. Does the Commission think that the decision by the French authorities to close the border crossing solely at night complies with the Schengen Borders Code?
2. France alludes to extraordinary circumstances necessitating the continued closure of the tunnel. Do these circumstances actually exist? If not, will it insist on the French authorities reopening the crossing at once?
3. Does the Commission agree that free movement is one of the cornerstones of the European Union and that, therefore, Member States must act accordingly?