

**Priority question for written answer P-002471/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Risk of paralysis for road haulage to and from Italy, resulting in higher costs for consumers and businesses

The serious landslide of 27 August led to the closure of the Fréjus Tunnel. In addition to this, there is the planned closure of the Mont Blanc Tunnel for maintenance work from 4 September. Along with the closures, there is the internal transit ceiling introduced by Switzerland and the restrictions on heavy goods traffic arbitrarily imposed by Austria at the Brenner Pass. As a result, the transit of goods to and from Italy is at risk of being paralysed, as it is only possible through the Ventimiglia border crossing, with very serious repercussions in terms of GDP, blocking production chains and increasing costs for companies importing and exporting products, the price of which could be passed on to the final consumer.

In view of the above:

1. Can the Commission advise whether it intends to initiate infringement proceedings against Austria with a view to restoring the free movement of goods at the Brenner Pass?
2. How does it intend to help freight transport companies bear the additional costs that will be incurred as a result of longer journeys?
3. Does it intend to set up a task force made up of trade associations that genuinely represent both Italian and European road haulage in order to develop sustainable solutions to ensure free movement and fair competition?

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