

**Priority question for written answer P-002729/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Andrey Novakov (PPE)

Subject: Build-up of heavy goods vehicles at the Bajakovo border crossing point (Croatia)

In July and August 2023, there were long queues of heavy goods vehicles at the border checkpoints of Batrovci (Serbia) and Bajakovo (Croatia). The tailbacks were kilometres long, with waiting times running into days, and they are still a problem now.

The build-up of heavy goods vehicles was most pronounced at the Bajakovo crossing point from Serbia to Croatia. One of the main reasons for this were the delays in the inspections and checks on freight vehicles crossing the border, and the fact that only one weighbridge was available to weigh them. News has also emerged that the law enforcement authorities in both Serbia and Croatia have been conducting unlawful and unjustified checks.

1. How will the problem of insufficient operational and technical capacities at the Bajakovo crossing point – the main reason behind the build-up of lorries – be addressed?
2. Are there plans for additional checks to be conducted by independent authorities at border crossing points, and particularly at the Bajakovo crossing point, so as to ensure unfettered entry into the Schengen area?

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