

**Priority question for written answer P-003740/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Closure of the Frejus tunnel: a threat to the internal market and cross-border goods traffic

On 27 August 2023, a landslide struck on the tracks of the Frejus railway line at La Praz. According to the Prefecture of Savoie, which is responsible for that part of the line, the clearance and restoration operations could last more than a year, not concluding until the end of 2024. That timeframe is unacceptable in a market that has already been put to the test by crises in earlier years, and by the scheduled closure of the Mont Blanc Tunnel for maintenance work. The current interruption to Autostrada Ferroviaria Alpina's works has already led to some 100 workers – employees and suppliers – being furloughed.

The continued closure of the Frejus Rail Tunnel will bring a definitive end to a service which transports more than 30 lorries per year (mainly containing dangerous goods) by rail, passing this heavy traffic onto mountain roads and crossing points that are already vastly overused.

In the light of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of the matter described above?
2. Given the circumstances, does this state of affairs not undermine the full functioning of the internal market?
3. What steps will the Commission take to urge France to clear up the landslide debris and make it possible for cross-border freight traffic to pass through in a regular fashion again?

Submitted: 20.12.2023