

**Priority question for written answer P-000393/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Farmers' protests in France and their impact on the free movement of goods and Czech truck drivers

Recent farmers' protests in France have significantly affected truck drivers across the EU, including from Czechia¹, and have disrupted the movement of goods. The protests caused highways and roads to be blocked for more than a week². Such uncontrolled protests are seriously undermining the proper functioning of the single market, as Czech trucks transporting goods for Czech citizens have been stuck for days. Czech truck companies have reported stolen and damaged property and have suffered great economic loss.

According to EU rules, public authorities are required to take all necessary steps to prevent and punish actions by private individuals that aim to restrict the free movement of goods.

Considering the above:

1. Does the Commission consider there to be an objective justification for the French Government's failure to prevent and punish this restriction of free movement?
2. Will the Commission ask the French Government to act with the appropriate firmness to restore in practice the rights that economic operators enjoy under the single market?
3. Can Czech truck companies seek compensation from the French Government for the damage caused by the protests and for its liability for the restriction of freedom of movement?

Submitted: 7.2.2024

¹ https://www.idnes.cz/zpravy/domaci/francie-protesty-utoky-na-kamiony-zbozi-ministr-zemedelstvi-reakce.A240127_122640_domaci_vank.

² https://www.bbc.com/news/live/world-europe-68126373?src_origin=BBCS_BBC.