

**Question for written answer
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Jordi Cañas (Renew)

Subject: Boycott by French winemakers of Spanish products at the border between both Member States

On October 19, 2023, around 500 French winemakers blocked the Le Perthus border crossing with Spain to demand an end to imports of Spanish wine. The blocking of the tollbooth on the Le Boulou highway, and the looting of trucks with the aim of "halting Spanish imports" accompanied the protest¹. This situation was made even more troublesome by the repetitive nature of these acts by French winemakers and by the several requests by Spanish citizens over the years for the European Commission to address this situation.²

These actions, encouraged by the Aude Winemakers' Union, constitute a violation of the principle of the free movement of goods in the internal market³. Furthermore, they represent an obstacle to the rights of citizens to engage freely in commercial and business activities throughout the EU⁴.

Regulation (EC) No. 2679/98⁵ establishes special procedures to counter serious obstacles to the free movement of goods that cause significant losses to those affected and require immediate action.

Thus,

(1) Has the Spanish government sent any information to the European Commission regarding this harmful barrier to the single market?

(2) Is the Commission monitoring if all necessary and proportionate measures are being taken so that France assures the free movement of goods? In so, will the Commission monitor that losses are compensated?

¹ <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2023/10/19/french-wine-imports-protest-spanish-cava-boulou-trade/>

² <https://www.euractiv.com/section/agriculture-food/news/spain-lodges-complaint-after-french-vandals-attack-wine-lorries/>

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/glossary/free-movement-of-goods.html>

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=457>

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/ALL/?uri=CELEX:31998R2679>