

**Question for written answer E-001506/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Connectivity of the Alpine passes: the consequences of prolonging the closure of the Frejus rail tunnel

In August 2023, a landslide at La Praz blocked the railway line passing through the Frejus tunnel, seriously disrupting the movement of goods.

The recovery work begun by the French authorities is still not complete and there is no definite date for the reopening of the Frejus railway.

The scheduled closure of the Mont Blanc tunnel for maintenance, announced some time ago, means there is a high risk of a cross-border trade bottleneck.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission intend to step up talks with the French authorities in order to set a deadline for the reopening of the section?
2. Does it not consider a European approach to the connectivity of the Alpine transport system to be necessary, in order to ensure the free movement of goods and people within the EU?
3. Does it plan on making financial support available to operators who have had to suspend their activities?

Submitted: 9.8.2024