



Defensor del Pueblo (e.f.)

Francisco Fernández Marugán

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REGISTRO

Fecha: 23/12/2020
Salida: 20142424

M. Rob Behrens
Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman
Millbank Tower
30 Millbank
Westminster
London
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Madrid, December 23rd 2020

Subject: Situation of Spanish lorry drivers in the border of UK and France

Dear colleague:

As you surely know, there are currently thousands of lorry drivers stranded in the vicinity of Dover, trying to cross the Channel in order to reach mainland Europe as soon as possible.

Reported conditions on the roadside are terrible. With very few toilets available to those still stuck, many drivers had been left with little or no access to hot food, drinks and showers, after the French authorities closed the border to accompanied freight or cargo in an attempt to stem the spread of the new coronavirus variant discovered in the UK.

It seems that as of today, trips from UK will be resumed after a mass testing programme at its ports after an agreement was reached to reopen the border with France.

However, and given the big number of lorries, situation will not improve after some days.



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It seems there are about 3.000 Spanish drivers stuck in these dire conditions, and that is why I am writing you, dear colleague, in order to know whether something can be done in order to improve the hygienic conditions as well as to speed up the testing so that these people can meet with their families on these special dates.

I would like to thank you in advance for considering this request.

Yours sincerely.