

EN

E-001506/2024

Answer given by Mr Hoekstra  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(8.10.2024)

1. The Commission acknowledges that the situation created by the landslide near La Praz and the ensuing closure of the Fréjus railway line in August 2023 is serious. Renovation works on the line will take some time due to their challenging nature. At this stage, the Commission has no evidence that not all is done to reopen the line as soon as possible.

2. Coordination of trans-Alpine transport is already addressed by existing coordination structures, in particular the Zurich Process<sup>1</sup> and the EU strategy for the Alpine region (EUSALP)<sup>2</sup>. These structures should be used to the largest extent possible in situations such as the current interruption of the Fréjus rail line following the landslide in August 2023 to ensure that traffic can continue on the most efficient routes and that excessive detours are avoided.

3. The EU does not have the financial programmes or resources to provide subsidies to operators in such cases. Funding from the Connecting Europe Facility is only available for financing of trans-European transport (TEN-T) infrastructure and cannot be used to provide a short-term relief to users of infrastructure that has suffered the damage. Concerning potential support from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the agreement in place with the French authorities specifically exclude support to this kind of infrastructure and cannot be used to provide disaster-related damage.

Where Member States concerned consider financial compensations from national resources, such financing would have to be in line with the applicable EU State aid rules.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://acrossthealps.org/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://alpine-region.eu/>