

**Question for written answer E-001759/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
François Kalfon (S&D)

Subject: Commission support for rail freight

Rail freight is a key element in the decarbonisation of goods transport. Accordingly, in her mission letter to Apostolos Tzitzikostas, Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism, Ursula von der Leyen requested that an ambitious plan for rail freight be put in place.

However, Fret SNCF, one of Europe's biggest players in this sector, was forced to restructure itself in order to avoid paying a record fine imposed by the Commission for aid found to be against competition rules. While this restructuring plan will allow Fret SNCF to avoid this fine, it is also accompanied by a significant and unjust redundancy plan that will affect the operation of any future entities stemming from Fret SNCF and will limit their aspirations to develop rail freight.

How does the Commission intend to tangibly support rail freight?

Submitted: 18.9.2024