

**Question for written answer E-002325/2025  
to the Commission**  
Rule 144  
**Victor Negrescu (S&D)**

**Subject:** Establishment of a free zone on the EU's eastern border in Maramureş County

Romania, a Member State located on the EU's eastern border, has the longest border with Ukraine of all the EU countries. The longest stretch of that border is situated in Maramureş County, which is an area of strategic importance for cross-border trade and regional cooperation. Romania has played a crucial role in providing humanitarian and logistical support in the context of Russia's unprovoked and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine.

The Maramureş local authorities, together with the signatory of this question, are exploring the possibility of establishing a free zone in Maramureş under EU customs legislation. This could help to diversify trade routes and with the economic recovery of Ukraine, provided it is implemented effectively and the appropriate support is provided.

1. What conditions would have to be met for the Commission to approve such an area?
2. What guidelines, best practices and technical assistance can be provided to ensure its compliance with EU legislation and the EU's objectives in the region?
3. What financial instruments and cross-border cooperation mechanisms can be mobilised for the development of the area?

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