

**Priority question for written answer P-004500/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Kris Van Dijck (ECR)

Subject: Exclusion of port superstructures from the General Block Exemption Regulation

The General Block Exemption Regulation (EU) No 651/2014¹ currently excludes investments in port superstructures from eligible costs for State aid, as set out in Article 56b(3) thereof.

This provision distinguishes between infrastructure (such as quays, access roads and underground works) and superstructure (which includes cranes, warehouses, buildings and shore-side electricity installations). Only the first category is eligible for State aid, while superstructures are explicitly excluded.

However, several EU policy initiatives, such as the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation² and the FuelEU Maritime Regulation³, require substantial investments in port facilities, including shore-side electricity systems, safety equipment and dual-use infrastructure. This exclusion appears to run counter to the EU's own objectives on decarbonisation, safety and strategic autonomy.

1. How does the Commission justify maintaining the exclusion of port superstructures from the General Block Extension Regulation, given that it may hinder the implementation of key EU legislation?
2. How will the Commission assess whether the current rules remain consistent with the Union's climate, transport and security objectives?

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¹ OJ L 187, 26.6.2014, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/651/oj>.

² OJ L 234, 22.9.2023, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/1804/oj>.

³ OJ L 234, 22.9.2023, p. 48, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/1805/oj>.