

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002408/24
to the Commission
Benoit Cassart (Renew)
(5 November 2024)**

Subject: Inland waterway transport

Inland shipping is one of the most popular means of transport for cereals and offers the agri-food industry many advantages. What can the Commission do to guarantee that a fair share of investment for EU transport infrastructure goes into inland waterways to ensure a modal shift that is sustainable and climate-resilient?

Submitted: 5.11.2024

**Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas on behalf of the European Commission
(8 January 2025)**

The Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy ⁽¹⁾ sets out as a milestone an increase by 25% by 2030 and by 50% by 2050 in transportation by inland waterways and short sea shipping.

Several challenges affecting such increase were identified in the Commission's NAIADES III action plan ⁽²⁾. It notably highlights the need to ensure coherent infrastructure and good navigation status of the fairway.

In the framework of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) ⁽³⁾, the Commission is providing substantial financial support for projects aimed at completing and upgrading the inland waterway along the trans-European transport network (TEN-T).

Since 2014, CEF has supported 121 inland navigation projects for amounts of around EUR 2.7 billion.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2020) 789 : <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0789>

⁽²⁾ COM(2021) 324 : <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021DC0324>

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/1153 : <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R1153>