

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002992/25
to the Commission
Fabio De Masi (NI)
(17 July 2025)**

Subject: Closure of a state aid procedure without a final decision regarding the HHLA-MS C case

1. Which provision of the procedural rules regarding state aid (Regulation (EU) 2015/1589) enables the Commission to close the state aid procedure concerning the sale of shares in Hamburger Hafen und Logistik Aktiengesellschaft (HHLA) to the shipping company MSC 'without a final decision at this stage' (written submission to the Commission of 21 May 2025 — reference EASE 2025/2487)?
2. What circumstances might lead the Commission to reopen the procedure?

Submitted: 17.7.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera on behalf of the European Commission
(27 August 2025)**

The Commission has closed the case regarding allegations on the sale price of shares in Hamburger Hafen und Logistik Aktiengesellschaft (HHLA) to the shipping company MSC without a formal decision pursuant to Article 24(2) of Regulation (EU) 2015/1589 ⁽¹⁾, as no interested party within the meaning of Article 1(h) of Regulation (EU) 2015/1589 submitted an admissible formal complaint.

The Commission could reopen the case if it were to receive an admissible formal complaint that fully complies with Article 24(2) of Regulation (EU) 2015/1589 containing factual elements substantiating the existence of unlawful aid to MSC.

⁽¹⁾ Council Regulation (EU) 2015/1589 of 13 July 2015 laying down detailed rules for the application of Article 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, OJ L 248, 24.9.2015, pp. 9, available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2015/1589/oj/eng>.