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Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission takes note of the one-year postponement of the decision on the International Maritime Organisation's (IMO) Net-Zero Framework (NZF). While this delay is regrettable, the Commission will continue to engage constructively with all partners while building on the progress and compromises achieved so far and with the objective to fulfil the targets agreed at the IMO. The EU Emissions Trading System¹ and the FuelEU Maritime Regulation² include specific review clauses to take into account future IMO developments.

Ambitious global actions, in line with the Paris Agreement, are key to reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from shipping given the international nature of the sector. The Commission will continue supporting a level playing field for the EU maritime sector by strongly advocating for ambitious IMO measures and ensuring the equal treatment of EU and non-EU ships under its laws. In parallel, the Commission will continue safeguarding the competitiveness of the sector through existing instruments like the Innovation Fund³, as well as through new initiatives. In particular, the upcoming EU Maritime Industrial Strategy and EU Ports Strategy will strengthen the entire EU waterborne and port value chain towards clean, resilient, and innovative maritime industries, whereas the Sustainable Transport Investment Plan will boost EU capacity to produce, supply, and deploy sustainable maritime fuels.

Given the postponement of the discussions on the IMO NZF, the Commission has not undertaken any such targeted initiative. However, it remains ready to engage in the operationalisation of the Framework, by sharing the experience of the EU from the implementation of monitoring, certifying and regulating GHG reduction measures.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/957/oj/eng>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/1805/oj/eng>.

³ More than EUR 600 million have already been granted from the Innovation Fund for maritime projects, both for renewable and low-carbon fuels production and projects on ships.