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Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Sustainable Transport Investment Plan will mobilize EU funding, improve coordination among Member States and strengthen conditions for market investment to boost alternative fuels availability, including in Outermost Regions (ORs).

Given the ORs' geographic and economic constraints, key EU Regulations promoting alternative fuels in maritime transport provide special treatment for such regions, granting them more time to secure fuel availability in ports. Certain voyages involving ORs are exempt from the EU Emissions Trading System until 2030, and FuelEU applies to only half of the energy used on these routes. FuelEU and the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation¹ also allow Member States to introduce specific OR exemptions until 2030.

Under the ReFuelEU Aviation Regulation², airports in ORs are excluded from the mandatory scope regardless of traffic volume to avoid disproportionate logistical costs. An opt-in mechanism allows Member States to include these airports voluntarily, ensuring the Regulation's objectives are met while respecting OR constraints.

In 2021–2027, the European Regional Development Fund allocates EUR 559 million to mobility and transport, notably EUR 338 million for urban public transport in the ORs. Of these, EUR 256 million support sustainable fuels.

In the next Multiannual Financial Framework, clean transport funding, including alternative fuels infrastructure, will be available under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), National and Regional Partnership Plans, and the European Competitiveness Fund. The proposed CEF Regulation maintains higher co-funding rates for OR transport projects.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/1804/oj/eng>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/2405/oj/eng>.