

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000518/26
to the Commission
Benoit Cassart (Renew)
(9 February 2026)**

Subject: EU Ports Strategy and EU Maritime Industrial Strategy

How is the Commission ensuring that the sheer number of rules on the energy transition, security and resilience, and the requirements set out therein will not compromise the competitiveness of EU ports vis-à-vis other major global hubs, such as the ports of Shanghai and Los Angeles, while also ensuring that ports with very different resources are able to develop on a level playing field and play a role in making the EU's ports more competitive as a whole?

Submitted: 9.2.2026

**Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas on behalf of the European Commission
(21 May 2026)**

With the EU Ports Strategy ⁽¹⁾ the Commission sets out a coherent framework to strengthen the competitiveness of EU ports and promote a level playing field with third country ports.

Structured around five priorities, the strategy aims to balance environmental sustainability, energy transition, and resilience with economic growth and competitiveness.

It calls for EU action to ensure fair competition, promote innovation and digitalisation, simplify regulatory burden while maintaining environmental protection and strengthening security and the role of ports for military mobility.

Furthermore, the strategy presents a strategic approach to supporting EU ports through targeted priorities and principles for public funding from the EU and national budgets and leveraging private financing.

This approach aims to address the needs of all EU ports, including small and medium-sized ports, and ports in inlands and outermost regions.

The strategy also highlights simplification efforts undertaken by the Commission to facilitate and speed up investments in greening of infrastructure while enhancing port competitiveness.

The EU Port strategy also invites port stakeholders to pursue forward-thinking strategies, integrate cutting edge technologies and innovative sustainable practices.

These measures together provide a balanced approach to enhance competitiveness across EU maritime and inland ports which vary greatly in terms of size, location, market segments served, governance models, and stakeholders.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52026DC0112&qid=1772790216221>.