

EN

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Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
(4.8.2026)

The Aalborg-Hirtshals/Frederikshavn section is an integral part of the trans-European transport (TEN-T) core network for passenger and freight transport and of the Scandinavian-Mediterranean European Transport Corridor. According to Article 16.6 of the TEN-T Regulation¹ the lines shall be electrified by 31 December 2030. The Commission monitors the development of the Danish network regarding its compliance with the TEN-T Regulation.

Article 16.11 of the Regulation grants Member States the possibility to request exemptions from the requirements on grounds of specific geographical or significant physical constraints, negative result of socio-economic cost-benefit analysis or significant negative impacts on environment or biodiversity. Any such request shall be substantiated with sufficient justification. The Commission shall assess the request in the light of the justification provided as well as in terms of its significant impact on interoperability and continuity of the railway network, where relevant.

In case of an exemption, Article 20 (h) of the regulation calls for the development and deployment of innovative alternative fuels technologies for railways, such as hydrogen or battery powered trains for sections and rail access routes that are exempted from the electrification requirement.

Depending on the outcome of the negotiations on the next multiannual financial framework, the electrification of railway lines on the TEN-T network could be co-funded under the Connecting Europe Facility or under the National and Regional Partnership Plans.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024R1679>.