

EN

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Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.10.2026)

1. In its proposal for the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) for the 2028–2034 period, the Commission has proposed a transport budget that is twice as high as in the current programming period. Support for inland waterways is included. This is illustrated in the Annex to the proposal, which identifies cross-border infrastructure projects, including relevant inland waterway connections. CEF projects may also include climate adaptation activities targeted to improve navigation conditions, while also complying with the Water Framework Directive and the Nature Restoration Regulation, where relevant.

In addition, the Commission has proposed a new National and Regional Partnership Plan and Member States may include inland waterways projects in their plans. The proposals are currently under negotiation by the co-legislators¹.

2. Under Regulation (EU) 2024/1679² on the trans-European transport network, the Commission supports inland waterway managers in achieving Good Navigation Status by 2030. With Member States and river commissions, it is preparing implementing acts to define water levels for efficient, reliable and safe navigation, taking account of climatic fluctuations. In parallel, through CEN/CENELEC (European Committee for Standardisation/European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation), it is developing common European methodologies on environmental performance and climate resilience. It also supports coordinated investment planning through CEF funding, regional cooperation and flagship actions such as FAIRway Danube II³ and Lower Danube studies and works.

¹ Since 2014, CEF has supported 128 inland waterway projects in total of EUR 2.8 billion, including the Fast Danube cross border project between Romania and Bulgaria with EUR 195 million.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1679/oj/eng>.

³ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/projects-details/43251567/101122575>.