

Question for written answer E-007189/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Olaf Stuger (ENF)

Subject: EU port subsidies often a waste of money

EU expenditure on quays, docks and breakwaters in European ports is in many cases a waste of money. One third of investments between 2000 and 2013 were ineffective and unsustainable. This is the finding of the European Court of Auditors¹.

For example, nearly EUR 100 million were spent on facilities that already existed nearby. In other cases, investments were made in infrastructure which for many years after it was installed was used very little if at all. In 14 of the ports investigated, there was no good road or rail connection. Furthermore, many projects were plagued with delays and cost overruns.

Between 2000 and 2013 the EU spent EUR 17 million in subsidies and loans for ports.

1. Does the Commission agree with the Court of Auditors' finding that EU subsidies for ports are in many cases a waste of taxpayers' money?
2. If so, is the Commission prepared to immediately halt the disbursement of EU subsidies to ports? If not, why not?

¹ http://www.telegraaf.nl/dft/nieuws_dft/26664808/___Europese_zeehavensubsidie_vaak_verspillend___.html