

**Question for written answer E-007470/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Marie-Christine Arnautu (ENF)**

Subject: Court of Auditors report on maritime transport

The Court of Auditors recently published the report 'Maritime transport in the EU: in troubled waters – much ineffective and unsustainable investment', according to which at least a third of EU spending on facilities such as quays, docks and breakwaters at EU seaports between 2000 and 2013 was ineffective, and even unsustainable. The Court also reports that one in three euros 'spent on the projects examined (EUR 194 million) went on projects which duplicated existing facilities nearby', and that 'EUR 97 million was invested in infrastructure which was either unused or heavily underused for more than three years after completion'.

According to Mr Oskar Herics, the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible for the report, 'needs assessments are weak and there is a high risk of the money invested being wasted. Overall, this relates to almost 400 million euros of investment examined.' These observations bring to mind the disasters of Soviet planning, characterised by gigantic projects that were doomed to failure.

1. Is the Commission planning to review its criteria for the funding and selection of projects?
2. Is it planning to take steps to ensure more effective oversight in future?