

**Question for written answer E-007526/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Ineffective and unsustainable investments in maritime transport

According to a report published by the European Court of Auditors, a third of the funds spent by the EU between 2000 and 2013 on structures such as quays, wharves and breakwaters at EU maritime ports ended up being ineffective and unsustainable. Specifically, it was found that the following resources had not been used well: EUR 97 million was invested in infrastructure that was not used for more than three years after the works ended, and one in every three euros was spent on projects that duplicated structures already in existence nearby. The projects examined by the Court of Auditors were found to be inefficient, with cost overruns totalling EUR 139 million, and 19 of the 30 projects analysed had experienced delays of up to 136% of how long they were expected to last.

In addition to the responses to the recommendations made by the Court of Auditors:

1. How does the Commission intend to manage the delays and cost overruns encountered, and what ex-ante assessment did it carry out, on the basis of which the EU financial contribution was calculated?
2. How can it justify the presence of unused or under-used infrastructure, given the huge scale of EU funds involved?
3. On the basis of the reply provided to observation 53, will it clarify and provide details for the criteria it considers acceptable as reasons for failure to use much port infrastructure, as identified in the report by the Court of Auditors?