

EN  
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Answer given by Ms Bulc  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(12.12.2018)

The Commission monitors with great attention developments under the existing regulatory framework and may propose new initiatives if those developments deviate from its policy goals. In doing so, the Commission follows the principles of better regulation: any proposal for revising legislation is preceded by a formal evaluation of current rules and an impact assessment of different options for addressing concerns. This includes the consultation of both the general public as well as experts and associations.

In terms of specific initiatives, the Commission has carried out an evaluation of Directive 2000/59/EC on port reception facilities for ship generated waste and cargo residues and has subsequently put forward a proposal for a new Directive on Port Reception Facilities<sup>1</sup> for the delivery of waste from ships addressing the problem of marine litter from sea-based sources. Moreover, the Commission has commissioned the study on "differentiated port infrastructure charges to promote environmentally friendly maritime transport activities and sustainable transportation<sup>2</sup>".

Financial assistance for greening of ports and vessels, e.g. alternative fuel infrastructure is being provided through the Connecting Europe Facility, Horizon 2020 and LIFE to improve air quality, which is a pressing concern in port cities<sup>3</sup>.

A recent Commission report<sup>4</sup> on the implementation of the Sulphur Directive has shown how the correct application by port authorities of the stricter sulphur in marine fuel requirements, introduced as of 2015 in the Baltic and North Sea, were successful in improving air quality in relevant ports and coastal areas. Further progress is expected with the entering into force of the 0.50% sulphur limit in all other sea areas as of 1 January 2020.

Various expert groups, such as the European Sustainable Shipping Forum and the European Ports Forum, were set up to provide the Commission advice and expertise from Member States and relevant stakeholders on the development of measures for improving the sustainability of maritime transport.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/maritime/news/2018-01-16-plastic-waste\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/maritime/news/2018-01-16-plastic-waste_en)

<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/maritime/news/2017-06-27-study-differentiated-port-infrastructure-charges-promote\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/maritime/news/2017-06-27-study-differentiated-port-infrastructure-charges-promote_en)

<sup>3</sup> Commission communication 'Clean Air for all' COM(2018)330 emphasizes urgent need to improve air quality through full implementation of air quality standards especially considering nitrogen oxides exceedances in 130 EU cities including ports.

<sup>4</sup> Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on implementation and compliance with the sulphur standards for marine fuels set out in Directive (EU) 2016/802 relating to a reduction in the sulphur content of certain liquid fuels (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52018DC0188> )