

**Question for written answer P-008686/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Richard Howitt (S&D)

Subject: Access to funds for the purpose of complying with the EU Sulphur Directive

The Sulphur Directive¹ will come into force on 1 January 2015, meaning that sea vessels must comply with the new limits on sulphur emissions. Many constituents have written to me expressing concern about the financial difficulties they will incur in order to comply with the directive.

I understand that there are subsidies available for those vessels seeking to use alternative energy sources, under the common fisheries policy and the TEN-T Motorways of the Sea programmes; however, the route to obtaining these subsidies is not clear.

Can the Commission urgently provide more detailed and clearer information explaining how vessel owners can apply for EU funding under these schemes, or available alternatives, in order to comply with the new sulphur emission standards?

¹ Directive 2012/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, amending Council Directive 1999/32/EC as regards the sulphur content of marine fuels.