

**Question for written answer E-006759/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Vincenzo Sofo (ID)

Subject: Administration and taxation of Italian ports

The Commission published its conclusions recently on how taxation of Italy's port authorities is administered. In these, it called for the ports' economic activity to be made subject to the same taxation regime as private companies, giving rise to conjecture that they would, otherwise, be excluded from Next Generation EU funding streams.

This position does not, however, take account of the enormous differences in how individual ports in the EU operate and their markets, nor of the context in which 'small ports', that are not part of the TEN-T networks, operate. Ports in the south of Italy and on the islands have to deal with competition dynamics that are far more aggressive than those in the north of the country. They face growing competition from North Africa, and non-EU countries are targeting them for capital investment geared towards weakening the geopolitical, economic and competitive weight of Member States such as Italy.

In view of this, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Can it explain why the Italian Government and the Commission have not found a solution that takes account of ports' different specificities?
2. Can it clarify whether possible funding from the MFF and/or New Generation EU will be impacted by the Italian Government's immobilism?
3. Can it explain how it plans to protect southern European ports from aggressive competition by North African ports and the predatory aims of non-EU countries such as China?