

**Question for written answer E-002739/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Jürgen Warborn (PPE)

Subject: Rollout of recharging and fuelling infrastructure in sparsely populated areas

According to recent media reports in Sweden, EU State aid rules could soon be updated, making it much more difficult for Member States to provide financial support to roll out recharging and filling stations for alternative fuels in sparsely populated and outlying areas. I agree that public money should not be used to subsidise technologies and services that are viable on the market, but I also believe that Member States have a responsibility to support the transition to renewable fuels for vehicles in regions where market forces are insufficient. Both EU funds and national financing instruments are crucial in paving the way for the transition to fossil-free transport in sparsely populated areas, thereby helping us achieve our ambitious climate goals.

Does the Commission share the view that revised State aid rules would make it more difficult to roll out climate-smart recharging and fuelling infrastructure in sparsely populated and the outermost regions? If not, how is the Commission intending to clarify the situation so as to dispel these doubts? If the Commission does share that view, does it think the consequences are reasonable? Or will steps be taken to ensure that the State aid rules do not restrict these urgent investments?