

**Question for written answer E-002995/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Johan Danielsson (S&D)

Subject: Discriminatory criteria for defining urban nodes in the upcoming revision of the Trans-European Transport Network

The Commission has suggested including urban nodes in the upcoming revision of the Trans-European Transport Network. The criteria for urban nodes is problematic from a northern European point of view. A large part of Sweden is characterised by long distances and low population density. Since one of the criteria is that the population has to exceed one million inhabitants, several cities in northern Sweden will be excluded.

I therefore believe that the Commission should reconsider the definition of urban nodes, as the current criteria would discriminate against cities in the northern regions of Sweden. These regions will play an important role in decarbonising the EU economy, as raw materials and industries are located in these areas. Well-functioning transport flows are not only important for northern Sweden, they are also crucial for transporting raw materials to production centres in southern Europe. High-quality infrastructure is hence key, and will benefit the EU as a whole. The criteria should therefore be based on the role of nodes in the wider surrounding area.

Will the Commission adjust the proposed criteria for urban nodes to ensure that regions with special characteristics have an equal chance of meeting the requirements?