

**Question for written answer E-001546/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Christian Ehler (PPE)

Subject: Assessment of the third wave of important projects of common European interest (IPCEIs) in the hydrogen sector

Criteria for the analysis of the compatibility with the internal market of State aid to promote the execution of important projects of common European interest are laid out in Commission Communication 2021/C 528/02. Several hydrogen IPCEIs are currently in the process of being notified.

1. Will any other criteria aside from those laid out in Communication 2021/C 528/02 be introduced, and if so, what will they be?
2. Is there sufficient clarity with regard to the accompanying national funding programmes dedicated to the production and purchasing of hydrogen in Member States (point 33), as well as with regard to the rules on how State aid may be cumulated (point 35), so that analyses of the identified funding gap and the aid intensity can be carried out?
3. In the case of hydrogen IPCEIs, can the criteria of Communication 2021/C 528/02 be used to assess whether their impact on trade will be minimal and a subsidy race will be avoided (point 46), as well as whether or not they will be able to overcome an important market or systemic failure (point 15)?

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