

**Priority question for written answer P-001261/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Jörgen Warborn (PPE)

Subject: Sluggish examination of the issue of state aid is hampering strategically significant port investment

The Port of Gothenburg is the only port in Sweden that can accommodate the world's largest container vessels. To enable Scandinavian industry to maintain its competitiveness and efficiently deliver its goods onto the global market, the fairway has to be extensively deepened. A fairway deepening project, designated 'Scandia Gateway', has therefore been put in hand. It is being run jointly by the Port of Gothenburg, the Swedish Maritime Administration and the Swedish Transport Administration and is part of the Swedish national infrastructure plan adopted by the Government in 2018. Cofinancing from the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) to carry out the necessary studies was approved in 2021 and a CEF works application was submitted.

By March 2023, all funding agreements and environmental permits were in place. Commission approval on the issue of potential state aid for the project is the only outstanding factor delaying the start of construction works. In dialogue with the enterprise, infrastructure and climate ministries, the issue has been under thorough scrutiny since 2021. However, the long-drawn out examination process has delayed the start of construction. If the issue is not resolved in the second quarter of 2023, there will be a 12-month delay before 'Scandia Gateway' gets under way. When does the Commission intend to complete the process of examining the state aid issue so that a start can be made on what is very urgent and strategically significant investment?

Submitted: 19.4.2023