

**Question for written answer E-014949/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Lack of investment in river transport

If the appeal of the EU's regions is to be enhanced, transport networks need to be modernised. The Commission is therefore making use of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), which has a transport budget of EUR 26 billion for the period 2014-2020. The CEF aims to improve cross-border connections and eliminate bottlenecks so as to develop an efficient and, above all, environmentally friendly transport network.

Unfortunately, river transport has been allocated only a meagre share of the EUR 13 billion investment plan unveiled in late June, despite the fact that it has strong growth potential and eases congestion on the roads. Whilst river transport suffers from a lack of investment which, in France in particular, is exacerbating the problem of the antiquated nature of the waterway network, the CEF budget is almost entirely swallowed up by road and rail transport.

1. Why has the Commission not allocated more of the CEF transport budget to river transport?
2. Why has the Commission not chosen to invest in existing transport routes which are seen as too outdated to be modernised?