



EFIP

European  
Federation  
of Inland Ports



# Danube Commission EM Meeting

Ruse, 23 April 2026



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European  
Federation  
of Inland Ports  
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# EU Policy Developments

1. Port Strategy
2. European Port Alliance
3. Connecting Europe Facility
4. State-Aid
5. AFIR Refit





# EU Policy Developments

## 1. Port Strategy

### Objective

Reinforcing competitiveness of European Ports

### Overview – 5 Pillars

- Strengthen Competitiveness, Innovation & Digitalisation
- Advance New Energies, Sustainability & Reindustrialisation
- Protect & Secure Ports
- Access to Finance & Investment
- Social Cohesion, Skills & Quality Jobs

### Council Reply

- Hinterland connections
- Energy Transition



# EU Policy Developments

## 2. European Port Alliance

Protect EU: Expanding security in all European ports and fight against smuggling

European Port Alliance added inland ports last year in the summer.

### **Proposals under Port Strategy**

- Expansion of background check to port workers
- Application of certain security measures to non-ISPS Ports
- Recommendations from Port alliance

### **European Port Alliance meetings**

- Lack of data from inland shipping and ports
- Existing smuggling practices being used by drug gangs
- Some Member States actions already usefull



# EU Policy Developments

## 3. Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)

- EFIP Priority
- Proposed under the MFF in the summer.

### Current Situation

- Commission proposal focuses on financing cross-border infrastructure with national funding going through national plans
- Unclear if port investment are cross-border or not

### Council

- Council position in December, fails to recognise inland ports fully

### European Parliament

- Removal of Commission powers
- Expansion of ports for Military Mobility



# EU Policy Developments

## 4. State-Aid

### GBER

#### Draft published

Consultation open until 23 April 2026.

#### General changes

Thematic restructuring, simplification of common provisions, and extended validity to 31 December 2034.

#### Port investments

Eligible costs extended to include installation, extension, security infrastructure, hydrogen/alternative fuels, and climate resilience investments. Aid thresholds unchanged.

### TBER

#### In force from 30 March 2026

Valid until 31 December 2034.

#### What it does

Allows Member States to grant State Aid for transport infrastructure without prior Commission notification.

#### For inland ports

Covers inland shipping and multimodal infrastructure. Aid capped at the lower of: (i) eligible costs minus forecast lifecycle profit, or (ii) 50% of eligible costs. TEN-T locations: +10% intensity bonus.

### Superstructures

#### GBER: still excluded

Art. 80(5) explicitly excludes port superstructures from the GBER. However, the explanatory memorandum indicates that forthcoming guidance will specify when ancillary superstructures may be financed.

#### TBER: now covered ✓

Member States may grant State Aid for superstructure development at inland ports — a key EFIP priority since 2019.

#### EFIP action

Seeking member examples of ancillary superstructure used exclusively for transport-related services and open to all users on a non-discriminatory basis. Deadline: 7 April 2026.



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# EU Policy Developments

## 5. AFIR Refit

- AFIR was adopted in 2024
- Review was planned

### Objectives

- Fair and transparent pricing road pricing
- Expansion of maritime ports obligations

### EFIP

- Inland ports or infrastructure does not seem to be a priority at this time



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**Thank you**