Brussels, on November 24 2026

To:
Fotini Ioannidou, Director - DG MOVE.D
Torsten Klimke, Head of Unit - DG MOVE.D.3
Lukasz Kolinski, Director - DG ENER.C

Letter from the Clean Port Coalition (CPC) to the European Commission

We, the Clean Port Coalition, an alliance bringing together industry, civil society and maritime and energy stakeholders, are joining forces to provide a unified voice and ensure that the transition towards zero-emission ports is delivered on the ground. Ahead of the AFIR review, we support ambitious EU rules to accelerate port electrification and shore power at scale.

Electrification is the most efficient pathway to decarbonise ports and shipping including (but not limited to) tugs & workboats, tankers and short-sea shipping. Switching to electricity improves air quality, cuts in-port greenhouse gas emissions, reduces the maritime industry's reliance on imported fossil fuels and therefore improves the resilience and competitiveness of European ports and the EU more generally.

Earlier this year, the European Commission published its Ports Strategy, followed by the Electrification Action Plan. The former rightly framed ports as key energy hubs, while the latter recognised that infrastructure deployment will be the critical enabler of maritime decarbonisation. Both of which addressed the importance of electrifying ports and deploying onshore power supply (OPS) at scale.

These are welcome and timely steps. The high prices and instability of fossil fuels markets over the past months have illustrated again how urgent it is to move away from fossil dependency.

The transition has already started on the ground, too. Ports are beginning to install shore power, battery-electric and hybrid vessels are entering European waters, and terminal operators are electrifying their operations, bringing immediate health, noise and economic benefits to port workers and coastal communities.

Ports are becoming more than industry clusters and gateways for trade and passenger traffic. They are set to become green energy production, storage, and shipping hubs; where heavy industries decarbonise and where maritime, rail and road transport converge.

However, scaling this transformation presents structural challenges that strategies alone cannot solve. To turn ambition into real large-scale electrification, Europe must address key bottlenecks, including regulatory gaps, uncertain planning and future electricity demand, unclear governance, limited standardisation, uneven energy tax levels, the lack of financing structures including known and proven de-risking mechanisms, grid connection delays and operational inefficiencies, and limited deployment of energy storage and flexibility measures.

Concrete policy and support measures are needed to provide certainty and deployment. The upcoming review of the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR) represents a decisive opportunity to address regulatory gaps and establish clear infrastructure targets beyond 2030, needed for long-term planning of port grid expansion. Beyond the AFIR review, complementary policy levers, such as supportive grid frameworks and a broad carbon market, will be needed to speed-up the roll-out of shore power and make it genuinely competitive with fossil fuels.

We, the undersigned coalition of stakeholders committed to accelerate the electrification of European ports, therefore call on the Commission to:

- **Provide a predictable regulatory horizon for the deployment of onshore power supply for all vessels calling at EU ports** in the upcoming AFIR review, starting with the most operationally feasible segments.
- **Introduce battery charging infrastructure requirements** to ensure that sufficient capacity is available to power the growing fleet of battery-electric vessels navigating in European waters.
- **Strengthen the role of port ecosystems as clean energy hubs**, through streamlined and prioritised grid access, the acceleration of energy storage deployment and the integration of flexibility mechanisms to integrate essential port electrification systems efficiently into the wider electricity grid.

Yours sincerely,

Signatories: Coalition for Clean Ports members


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MALTA


CITTADINI
PER L'ARIA


Corvus Energy


DanishShipping


DFDS


EOPSA
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