# Port services: market access and financing of maritime ports

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512 MEPs voted to reject the Commission's proposal, which would have opened ports to competition from providers of services like piloting, loading and unloading ships. Only 120 MEPs voted for the adoption of the proposal with 25 abstaining. The Socialist (PES), Liberal (ALDE), Green, Left-wing (GUE/NGL), IND /DEM and UEN groups voted against the proposed directive, and not even half of the Conservative PPE /DE group voted in favour of it. Back in 2003, the Parliament had rejected a proposal along the same lines.

Following the vote, Transport Commissioner Jacques Barrot declared his intention to consult the Members of the Commission on the future of the text. In accordance with Article 52 of the Regulation, the text could be sent back to the parliamentary committee. According to the procedure, the text should be re examined for it to be presented again at plenary within 2 months. The Commission should maintain its proposal. If, on the other hand, the Commission decides to withdraw the text, Parliament should confirm its rejection by voting on a resolution.