

Press statement

France's initiative, backed by strong Member State support, paves the way for a much-needed 'highly effective' EU trade measure to preserve a viable EU steel industry and quality jobs, says EUROFER

Brussels, 29 July 2025 – The proposal for a 'highly effective' new trade measure to counter global overcapacity and preserve the European steel industry's capacities, published yesterday by France on behalf of a group of 11 Member States, is a timely initiative. The non-paper sets a clear course towards a comprehensive steel trade measure to replace the current safeguard regime at a critical moment, as the negative impacts of global overcapacity on the European steel industry continue to grow, says the European Steel Association (EUROFER).

"We welcome and strongly support [this proposal](#), initiated by French Minister Ferracci with the backing of a significant number of key steel-producing Member States, including, besides France, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Spain. We call upon other Member States, the European Parliament and the Commission to fully support this initiative. This is exactly the kind of coordinated, ambitious action we need to stop the tsunami of cheap steel imports from destroying Europe's industrial base, jobs, and green transition. Urgency and political determination are now more critical than ever: every day lost is a step further away from European industrial sovereignty", said Axel Eggert, Director General of the European Steel Association (EUROFER).

"We expect the European Commission to give due consideration to constructive Member State initiatives that are clearly aligned with the ambition of the Steel and Metals Action Plan (SMAP) in 'promoting and protecting European industrial capacities' and 'defending quality industrial jobs'. In a rapidly changing and increasingly uncertain geoeconomic context, time is running out. We urge the Commission to present as soon as possible its proposal for a 'highly effective' trade measure as committed under the SMAP, and to implement it without delay—well before the current safeguard regime expires. The ongoing uncertainty surrounding EU steel exports to the US and the lack of clarity around a potential EU-U.S. 'Metals Club' to tackle global overcapacity, clearly demonstrate that European steelmakers cannot afford further EU inaction. Europe can only be stronger with European steel," concluded Mr Eggert.

Notes for editors

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About the European Steel Association (EUROFER)

EUROFER AISBL is located in Brussels and was founded in 1976. It represents the entirety of steel production in the European Union. EUROFER full members are steel companies and national steel federations throughout the EU. The major steel companies and national steel federations in the Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom are members.

The European Steel Association is recorded in the EU transparency register: 93038071152-83.

About the European steel industry

The European steel industry is a world leader in innovation and environmental sustainability. It has a turnover of around €215 billion and directly employs around 298,000 highly-skilled people, producing on average 146 million tonnes of steel per year. More than 500 steel production sites across 22 EU Member States provide direct and indirect employment to millions more European citizens. Closely integrated with Europe's manufacturing and construction industries, steel is the backbone for development, growth and employment in Europe.