

Press statement

U.S. 50% steel tariffs: new EU trade measure needed now to avert collapse of European market, urges EUROFER

Brussels, 4 June 2025 – With U.S. blanket tariffs now raised to 50%, the only way to avoid the further erosion of the European steel market and another blow to European steelmakers is the swift implementation of the “highly effective trade measure” promised by the European Commission in its Steel and Metals Action Plan. A negotiated solution between the EU and the U.S. is also vital to preserve EU steel exports to the U.S., warns the European Steel Association.

"With the doubling of U.S. blanket tariffs on steel to 50% without exceptions, we expect massive deflection of the 27 million tonnes of steel previously destined for the U.S. towards the European market, just as we saw in 2018 when the first U.S. tariffs were introduced. With global overcapacity at record highs and import penetration in the EU up to 30% in a context of depressed demand, we are being flooded by cheap foreign steel. Without swift action, we will not just be underwater — we will drown. We need the Commission’s promised ‘highly effective trade measure’ as a lifeline, and we need it now. If we wait until 2026, when the current EU steel safeguard expires, much of our industry will already be submerged beyond recovery”, said Axel Eggert, Director General of the European Steel Association (EUROFER).

“Furthermore, most of the 3.8 million tonnes of EU steel exports to the U.S. are now under a *de facto* import ban: at a 50% blanket tariff, even Europe’s highest-quality, most competitive steel products will be priced out. A negotiated EU-U.S. solution is paramount to preserve our exports at this critical moment for the European sector. The U.S. and the EU should reopen negotiations, stalled in 2024, to address global overcapacity jointly”, concluded Mr Eggert.

Notes for editors

Contact

Lucia Sali, Spokesperson and Head of Communications, +32 2 738 79 35, (l.sali@eurofer.eu)

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

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. Steel is the most versatile industrial material in the world. The thousands of different grades and types of steel developed by the industry make the modern world possible. Steel is 100% recyclable and therefore is a fundamental part of the circular economy.