

**Question for written answer E-003930/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Concerns regarding the proposed export ban on European scrap metal under the Commission's European Steel and Metals Action Plan

Following the recent presentation of the European Steel and Metals Action Plan¹, both academic experts and representatives of the scrap metal sector have raised serious concerns about its potential implications. Europe already suffers from significant overcapacity in steel production. A ban on exports of scrap metal outside the EU risks exacerbating this structural imbalance and could prove catastrophic for the European steel industry.

Such a measure would drastically reduce the market value of scrap metal, thereby undermining the economic viability of collection, sorting, and upgrading activities. This, in turn, would disincentivise further investments in recycling and innovation, leading to a loss of jobs and ultimately weakening the Union's efforts to build a circular economy. Moreover, restricting exports would concentrate market power in the hands of the relatively few smelters operating within the EU, potentially granting them quasi-monopolistic control. It is likely that this distortion would push prices down further and shift value away from the many SMEs that currently transform scrap into new raw materials.

1. Given this situation, what measures will the Commission take to avoid worsening steel overcapacity?
2. How will it prevent the emergence of quasi-monopolistic market structures?
3. How will it safeguard European jobs in the recycling sector?

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¹ COM(2025)0125.