

**Question for written answer E-003019/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Fernand Kartheiser (NI)

Subject: Cumulative burden of CBAM and steel tariffs, and lack of transparency regarding quotas

With regard to the Commission's reply of 26 May 2026 (E-001234/2026¹): it is clear that the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and steel tariffs are two distinct measures. However, the significant additional burden on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) arises from the simultaneous application of CBAM and steel tariffs. This was precisely the focus of my question, rather than the legal purpose of the individual instruments.

1. Given this cumulative effect on the same import transaction, what specific mechanism does the Commission intend to use to avoid the double burden of CBAM and steel tariffs on SMEs?
2. In the light of this combined burden and the specific proposals submitted to the Commission to avoid it, why do SMEs remain subject to this burden, rather than being explicitly exempted from it?
3. The new country-specific quotas² have led to significant cuts for some origins and products; in some cases, only 25 % of the quantities still available under the safeguard measure remain. Why have cuts in some categories been so disproportionate that they correspond neither to the 2013 level nor to the market share for 2022-2024?

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¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-001234_EN.html.

² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202601457.