

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001205/25
to the Commission
Jadwiga Wiśniewska (ECR)
(20 March 2025)**

Subject: Protection of the European steel sector

The European steel industry is facing a problem of access to scrap. Most scrap goes to countries outside the EU, which do not have to comply with strict environmental standards, allowing them to pay higher prices. Scrap is an important raw material for the steel sector because it is cheaper and requires less energy to process than primary raw materials. Its use is part of the Commission's plan for a competitive, low-carbon steel industry that promotes, among other things, recycling.

1. What specific action does the Commission intend to take to ensure that European steel producers have access to metal and steel scrap?

Submitted: 20.3.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(23 May 2025)**

In the Steel and Metals Action Plan ⁽¹⁾, the Commission recognises the importance of using scrap in Europe to decarbonise the steel and metals industries, as well as the current trend of increasing scrap exports.

To reverse this trend, it is necessary to work both on the demand and on the supply side. On the demand side, the Commission will prepare the setting of targets for recycled steel and aluminium in key sectors and assess the need for recyclability and/or recycled content requirements for additional product groups.

On the supply side, the Commission is monitoring the situation and will consider proposing, by the third quarter of 2025 at the latest, a trade measure if necessary to ensure sufficient availability of scrap in the EU.

Furthermore, the Circular Economy Act, announced for the fourth quarter of 2026, aims to improve the functioning of secondary raw material markets and to create a single market for waste.

In the same context, the Commission will examine if additional measures such as export fees or export duties are appropriate. Lastly, the classification of scrap qualities will be refined to better match the supply of secondary raw materials with the demand in the EU.

⁽¹⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_805.