

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003767/25
to the Commission
Pascal Arimont (PPE)
(29 September 2025)**

Subject: Consideration of SMEs in preparation of a follow-up to EU steel safeguard measures

In its Steel and Metals Action Plan, the Commission announced that it is working on a possible follow-up to the safeguard measures against imports of certain steel products, which expire in mid-2026 (Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/159). According to available Eurostat data, a handful of large EU companies are responsible for the vast majority of imports from third countries — 57.3% of the import value in 2022 — but make up only 3% of all importing companies. Micro-enterprises, for instance, import steel worth only EUR 0.24 million per year on average, while large companies import steel worth EUR 34.76 million on average — as much as 145 times more. This creates a structural imbalance, which tends to be exacerbated by trade defence instruments.

1. What exactly is the Commission doing to make sure any follow-up action improves SMEs' ability to compete?
2. What mechanisms is the Commission considering to prevent a small number of large companies from making disproportionate use of any tariff quotas established in a follow-up legal act and crowding out SMEs?

Submitted: 29.9.2025

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(21 November 2025)**

The Commission adopted a proposal for a steel measure on 7 October 2025 ⁽¹⁾. The proposal, implementing a commitment under the Steel and Metals Action Plan, aims to protect the EU steel sector from unfair impacts of global overcapacity, a vital step towards ensuring the long-term viability of a strategically crucial industry.

The proposal will implement a tariff quota system, aimed to limit the undue crowding out risks, including for small and medium-sized enterprises, notably through country allocation and quarterly administration.

⁽¹⁾ [https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=COM\(2025\)726&lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=COM(2025)726&lang=en).