

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003881/25
to the Commission**

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(2 October 2025)

Subject: Anti-dumping duties on corundum undermining the competitiveness of the European refractory industry

The Commission has slapped up to 136% in anti-dumping duties on Chinese corundum (fused alumina) imports. However, the EU counts only four corundum producers, whose limited capacity is unable to meet European demand, so almost 50% of the alumina used in the refractory industry comes from China.

The refractory sector, which provides some 20 000 direct and 60 000 indirect jobs in Europe, is dependent upon a stable and competitive supply of this raw material. These anti-dumping measures thus risk creating supply shortages and excessive market concentration among a few European producers, jeopardising competition, employment and competitiveness in sectors such as refractories, steelworking and aluminium.

In view of this:

1. How will the Commission ensure that these measures do not exacerbate capacity and concentration problems in European fused alumina production, thus curtailing competition and undermining the competitiveness of dependent industries?
2. Given the impact that this tariff will have on European refractory companies, does the Commission intend to review the rate or its temporary nature in order to avoid serious economic consequences for these companies and their workers?

Submitted: 2.10.2025

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

The provisional measures on imports of fused alumina were based on preliminary findings indicating the pressing need to address injury caused by Chinese imports to the EU industry, to safeguard its viability, and to support fair competition within the internal market.

However, in its provisional Regulation ⁽¹⁾, the Commission acknowledged the legitimate concerns raised by user industries, including the refractories industry, particularly with regard to their ability to absorb or pass on the cost increases and maintain profitability.

The investigation is currently ongoing, with the Commission continuing to gather and verify relevant data. All interested parties have been invited to submit comments and request hearings.

As part of its assessment of the EU interest, the Commission examines closely the situation of all interested parties, including users of the product under investigation, and is carefully considering all submissions received in line with the applicable procedural framework, in particular those aimed at mitigating the potential impact on users.

The objective of the investigation is to restore a level playing field, not to exclude legitimate competition from the market. Investigations are evidence-based and conducted in line with the relevant legislation, ensuring that the instrument is not used to distort competition.

Regarding capacity, the Commission provisionally found that the EU industry has been underutilising its production capacity throughout the period considered and has spare capacity that is either available immediately or can become operational within a very short period of time.

The Commission is expected to reach a final determination by 16 January 2026.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202501456.