

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003927/25
to the Commission
Sara Matthieu (Verts/ALE), Saskia Bricmont (Verts/ALE)
(7 October 2025)**

Subject: Unfair competition from subsidised stainless steel imports via Taiwan

European stainless steel producers are facing unfair competition due to massive imports of artificially low-priced stainless steel from Asia. These exports, heavily subsidised by both China and Indonesia, are being transported via Taiwan to bypass the EU's trade defence measures. Despite the Commission recognising this circumvention in 2024, most Taiwanese producers were made exempt from duties, creating a severe competitive disadvantage for European producers, who since 2024, are now reportedly operating at a loss, putting thousands of jobs and strategic European industrial capacity at risk.

In this context:

1. What immediate steps will the Commission take to ensure that the anti-circumvention measures adopted in 2024 are revised promptly, so that exemptions for Taiwanese exporters that benefit indirectly from Chinese and Indonesian subsidies are lifted?
2. How will the Commission ensure that the new mechanism planned to address global overcapacity, expected only in 2026, does not come too late for the stainless steel sector, and that interim solutions are put in place to safeguard producers?

Submitted: 7.10.2025

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

The Commission is fully committed to protecting the European steel industry from unfair trade and the sector is already protected by trade defence instruments. This includes over 70 trade defence measures in the sector, including safeguard measures.

Once measures are imposed, if there is evidence that these measures are being evaded, the Commission takes action by opening anti-circumvention investigations and extends measures accordingly.

In that context, the Commission extended the measures on stainless steel cold-rolled products from Indonesia to other Asian countries, including Taiwan, in 2024 ⁽¹⁾.

However, the Commission also found during the investigation that certain Taiwanese producers were not engaged in circumvention practices. Hence these specific producers were exempted from the duties.

The Commission can only revoke these exemptions if sufficient evidence is provided tending to show a lasting change in circumstances that led these genuine producers to start circumventing after having received their exemption.

On the second point, the Commission made an ambitious proposal to address the negative trade-related effects of global overcapacity on the EU steel market on 7 October 2025 ⁽²⁾.

As soon as the proposal is endorsed by the Council and the European Parliament, it will enter into force and start benefitting EU steel producers, including those of stainless steel products.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202401268.

⁽²⁾ [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).