

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004124/25
to the Commission**

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(20 October 2025)

Subject: Safeguard measures on manganese and silicon-based alloying elements

In December 2024, the Commission initiated a safeguard investigation concerning imports of manganese and silicon-based alloying elements, as requested by some Member States. The Commission was obliged to take the necessary decisions no later than nine months from that date, unless there were exceptional circumstances, in which case that time limit could be extended by a maximum period of two months.

As of 13 October 2025, no measures have been taken by the Commission and the deadline has been extended. In the meantime, the production of manganese and silicon-based alloying elements has stopped in the EU, with at least 450 workers now temporarily laid off. Those alloying elements are yet to be considered by the Commission as critical raw materials that are important for Europe's defence industry.

The US acted swiftly and implemented active anti-dumping duty orders on silicomanganese.

In this context:

1. Can the Commission explain the exceptional circumstances justifying the extension of the aforementioned deadline?
2. Why has the Commission not applied provisional safeguard measures for this sector?
3. To what extent has the Commission considered introducing shorter investigation deadlines for safeguard measures and including global prices together with import trends in its safeguard investigation, as valid options for better protecting EU industry in the current global context?

Submitted: 20.10.2025

Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(15 December 2025)

The Commission consulted Member States in July 2025 regarding a proposal to impose provisional safeguard measures on imports of certain alloying elements.

As a result of the consultation, it was decided not to impose provisional measures. Nevertheless, given the complexity of this case due to the structure of the EU industry and the characteristics of the product concerned, also requiring a proper balancing of all the relevant elements concerning the EU interest, the Commission decided to extend the deadline and continue the investigation, which led to the imposition of definitive safeguard measures on 18 November 2025.

In order to impose safeguard measures, EU law requires a demonstration through an in-depth investigation that an increase in imports is causing serious injury to domestic producers.

This entails a thorough analysis and verification of many elements that have an impact on the situation of the EU industry. These include economic factors such as production, sales, profits/losses but also aspects such as current imbalances in international trade, developments in global prices and import trends.

The investigation has also to offer procedural rights for all interested parties to make their views known. Thus, a complex case like the one on alloying elements requires all the time available under EU law for the consideration of definitive measures.

In the Joint Communication on Strengthening EU Economic Security ⁽¹⁾, adopted on 3 December 2025, the Commission recognised the need to evaluate the effectiveness and adequacy of the existing tools, and to strengthen the protection of the industry from unfair trade policies and negative global market developments.

⁽¹⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_2889.