

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004312/25
to the Commission**

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(4 November 2025)

Subject: Suspension of silicon metal production in Europe and safeguards for industries linked to critical raw materials

In December 2024, the Commission initiated a safeguard investigation into imports of manganese- and silicon-based alloys. This has been extended by two months, with an implementing regulation expected by 18 November 2025 at the latest. The Commission believes it has ‘sufficient evidence’ to prove that these imports, at prices significantly lower than the EU market price, are causing or likely to cause serious harm to European producers.

Against this backdrop, Ferroglobe has suspended silicon metal production in Europe, temporarily closing its Anglefort, Clavaux and Montricher plants and placing 450 French employees on enforced part time.

However, although silicon is on the list of strategic raw materials in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2024/1252, this framework does not provide for any specific safeguards for the industrial plants concerned, which are exposed to asymmetric global competition.

1. Is the Commission considering emergency measures, including trade-defence measures, to protect industries linked to critical materials?
2. Could the preventive mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund be considered?
3. Does the Commission intend to adapt the rules on state aid to authorise targeted support or public equity investments?

Supporters ⁽¹⁾

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

The Commission opened a safeguard investigation on manganese- and silicon-based alloys in December 2024. In the analysis it considered relevant imports, production costs, tariff classifications, raw material inputs and end uses.

The investigation confirmed that silicon metal does not compete directly with ferro-alloys and that imports of silicon decreased during the most recent period.

The conditions for safeguard measures for silicon metal were not met and it was therefore excluded from the product scope. The Commission remains ready to reassess the situation and to initiate a trade defence investigation based on a duly substantiated request.

Currently, the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) ⁽¹⁾ can intervene only when redundancies are confirmed. In April 2025, the Commission proposed amending the EGF Regulation, as one of the flagship actions of the EU’s Industrial Action Plan for the European automotive sector, to allow anticipatory support for workers at risk of imminent redundancy due to major restructuring events. This proposal is under discussion with the co-legislators.

The Commission has also adopted the Clean Industrial State Aid Framework (CISAF) ⁽²⁾. Section 6 provides Member States with tools to support production of net-zero products ⁽³⁾ and to support new or recovered critical raw materials necessary for the production of the net-zero products.

¹ This question is supported by Members other than the authors: Jean-Paul Garraud (Pfe), Julien Leonardelli (Pfe).

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/european-globalisation-adjustment-fund-for-displaced-workers-2021-2027.html>.

⁽²⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:C_202503602.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02024R1735-20250817>.