

EN
E-000039/2026
Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(19.2.2026)

The scope of the Commission's proposal¹ and the Council's compromise² text include the same 26 product categories subject to the currently existing steel safeguard measure.

The proposed measure provides explicitly that the Commission should assess the necessity to adjust the scope of products covered and, if deemed necessary, consider making a legislative proposal to expand the product scope. This commitment is reflected in Article 9 (1) and Recital 26. In its proposal, the Commission aims to have such a review within maximum two years from the date of entry into force of the Regulation³, a period that the Council has proposed to shorten to a maximum of 18 months⁴. The final decision on this aspect of the proposal will depend on the outcome of the ongoing ordinary legislative procedure.

Regarding the free trade agreement partners, the Commission may impose bilateral safeguard measures, which shall comply with the requirements of the applicable agreement.

It should be noted that steel producers have strongly welcomed the proposal. Furthermore, a feedback period was opened on 10 October 2025 and closed on 16 December 2025 providing stakeholders the opportunity to express their views on the proposal⁵. The Commission, the European Parliament and the Council will discuss the text in the trilogues that will start in the first quarter of 2026.

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).

² <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-16080-2025-INIT/en/pdf>.

³ [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).

⁴ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-16080-2025-INIT/en/pdf>.

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14781-Trade-measure-addressing-the-negative-trade-related-effects-of-global-excess-capacity-on-the-EU-steel-sector_en.