

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000282/26
to the Commission
Mathilde Androuët (Pfe)
(26 January 2026)**

Subject: Unfair competition from China and protecting the European silicon industry

Protecting a French and European silicon industry is one of the conditions of our technological sovereignty. It is a key strategic and geopolitical issue, given that silicon is a critical link in the value chains of the digital transition. However, the Ferroglobe group, a major silicon metal producer, has suspended production in Europe and reduced three French sites (Montricher, Les Clavaux and Angleur) to short-time work, which is affecting more than 400 employees ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾.

While China produces only around 8% of the silicon imported into the Union, it now dominates the chemical-grade silicon segment — in which Ferroglobe operates — and appears to have doubled its share of that market between 2022 and 2024 ⁽³⁾. These exports, which are heavily subsidised and underpriced, are causing European prices to drop by 20% to 30%, a development that has been compounded by the US upping its tariffs in spring 2025 ⁽⁴⁾.

In view of this:

1. Are the anti-dumping duties (around 16% to 17%) on Chinese silicon ⁽⁵⁾ still adequate?
2. What immediate safeguard measures does it intend to take to protect the European sector, particularly in France, against a structural distortion of competition that will be destructive in the long term?

Submitted: 26.1.2026

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(20 March 2026)**

The EU takes robust action to protect its industries from unfairly traded imports and at present has over 230 measures in place.

Where measures in place are considered to be no longer sufficient to counteract the impact of injurious dumping, there is a possibility to have the issue examined by way of an interim review.

Such a review can be initiated on request by an interested party who must show that there have been significant changes of a lasting nature in the circumstances relating to the dumping and/or injury.

Interim review investigations can result in an amendment of the measures in place, if justified. The complaints office of the Trade Defence Services can be contacted to discuss the procedure ⁽¹⁾.

As regards safeguards, in November 2025, safeguard measures were imposed on four ferro alloys. However, silicon is not covered by those measures, as the criteria to include the product were not met, namely, there was no increase of imports.

Nevertheless, market conditions can change rapidly in the current volatile trading environment, and the Commission is ready to engage with industry to explore all possible options available under the trade defence instruments.

The ferro alloys safeguard investigation showed that the sector, like many others, is facing challenges other than harmful trade practices, such as high energy costs. It is therefore necessary to explore also other policy options to help EU silicon producers operate on a sustainable basis.

¹ Rodot E. & Taffin A., *La Tribune*, 12 September 2025, <https://www.latribune.fr/strategie/industrie/ferroglobe-va-suspendre-sa-production-de-silicium-en-europe-1032229.html>.

² *Le Journal des Entreprises*, 7 October 2025, <https://www.lejournaldesentreprises.com/breve/ferroglobe-va-mettre-larret-ses-trois-usines-de-silicium-basees-en-aura-2128010>.

³ Andrieiev A., *Project Blue*, 30 September 2025, <https://projectblue.com/blue/news-analysis/1325/ferroglobe-suspends-silicon-metal-production-in-europe->

⁴ Fastmarkets, 2025, <https://www.fastmarkets.com/insights/3-potential-safeguarding-scenarios-facing-eu-bulk-alloys>.

⁵ European Commission, Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1394, 11 August 2022.

⁽¹⁾ trade-defence-complaints@ec.europa.eu.