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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(10.4.2026)

The Commission's proposal for a measure addressing the negative trade-related effects of global overcapacity of 7 October 2025[1] set out a product scope mirroring that of the existing safeguard measure (26 categories of steel finished products).

On the basis of that product scope, the Commission carried out a public consultation and a detailed assessment of the market situation in its staff working document and an economic analysis[2]. The compromise text adopted by the Council on 12 December 2025 proposed to keep the same product scope[3].

The Commission is aware of the concerns of other EU steel producers of certain steel products currently not covered by the proposal, for example, steel lift guide rails, and other producers of products made of steel. For this reason, the Commission committed to its proposal (Article 9.1)[4] to assess the need for a potential amendment and expansion of the product scope within a certain time after the proposal enters into force. Concerns concerning product scope were last echoed by several stakeholders during the feedback period on the Commission's proposal that was open from 10 October 2025 to 16 December 2025[5].

As to next steps in the process, the trilogues between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission have already started and are likely to consider the question of product scope among other issues. At this stage, however, we cannot prejudge the outcome of such discussions.

Lastly, the Commission continuously monitors trade flows across the steel sector and remains available to assess, together with EU industry, potential attempts to circumvent in a certain product category the effectiveness of any trade measure in place and the appropriate remedies.

[1] https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=COM(2025)726&lang=en.
[2] https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=SWD(2025)780&lang=en.
[3] https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/12/12/steel-overcapacity-council-adopts-mandate-on-new-rules-to-protect-eu-steel-industry-from-global-overcapacity/.
[4] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025PC0726.
[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.