

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000776/26
to the Commission
Bruno Gonçalves (S&D)
(24 February 2026)**

Subject: Commercial impact of the EU-India agreement on the aluminium industry

The recent trade agreement between the EU and India represents a diplomatic achievement that strengthens Europe's position geopolitically and enables the diversification of supply chains, easing trade pressures stemming from other partners.

Nevertheless, despite the potential aggregate economic benefit of the agreement, specific challenges arise for sectors that are critical for the industrial base and strategic autonomy of the European Union.

In the case of aluminium, the liberalisation of tariff barriers on imports from India risks eroding the competitiveness of European industry — which is also subject to higher energy prices and a strict regulatory framework on climate.

With this in mind, could the European Commission answer the following questions:

1. Does it consider that the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism is sufficient to protect the European aluminium industry and capable of ensuring fair trade dynamics with non-EU countries?
2. How can it prevent trade agreements, including the one mentioned above, from interfering with the objectives of the Critical Raw Materials Act, including with regard to the production and processing of aluminium?
3. Does it intend to move forward with instruments to strengthen demand for sustainably produced metals, such as minimum requirements for 'green' metals in cars or their prioritisation in public procurement criteria?

Submitted: 24.2.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(11 May 2026)**

1. The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) addresses the risk of carbon leakage by placing a carbon price on imports of covered goods equivalent to that paid by EU producers under the EU Emission Trading System. It is an environmental measure, preventing more carbon-intensive imports from undermining the EU's climate goals.
2. The EU-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) preserves the EU's ability to protect its industrial base while supporting diversified and resilient supply chains. It maintains the possibility to implement trade defence instruments. Additionally, it includes a bilateral safeguard mechanism by which the EU may temporarily raise duties up to Most-Favoured-Nation level for two years if a significant increase in preferential imports causes or threatens serious injury to the EU industry. The Commission also ensures that the EU's trade policy is aligned with the objectives of the Critical Raw Materials Act ⁽¹⁾ — the expansion of the EU network of FTAs strengthens the resilience and diversification of EU critical raw materials' value chains.
3. The proposed Industrial Accelerator Act ⁽²⁾ supports the EU aluminium industry's decarbonisation by creating lead markets for aluminium. The proposal introduces low-carbon and EU-origin requirements in public procurement and support schemes for strategic sectors. For aluminium, at least 25% of the total volume covered must be both low-carbon and EU-origin. The Industrial Accelerator Act defines low-carbon aluminium as those meeting the relevant requirements that will be set out in the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation Delegated Act on aluminium, which is planned for adoption in 2027.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02024R1252-20240503>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52026PC0100>.