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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera
on behalf of the European Commission
(27.4.2026)

The European Steel and Metals Action Plan¹, adopted on 19 March 2025, outlines a roadmap to help secure the industry's competitiveness and support its decarbonisation. To this end, policy instruments and initiatives available or forthcoming include:

- Trade defence instruments on unfair pricing, subsidies for the steel sector, and tariff-rate quotas on EU steel imports. The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism keeping carbon costs of imported steel comparable to those of EU producers;
- Funding for low-carbon steel technologies under the European Green Deal;
- The Industrial Accelerator Act² to help boost manufacturing, grow businesses, and create jobs;
- Amendments to the European Social Fund Plus and the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund, as well as the Pact for Skills³ support workers, companies affected by structural change, and large-scale partnerships of energy-intensive industries;
- The Emissions Trading System State aid Guidelines⁴, the Clean Industrial Deal State aid Framework⁵, and the Guidelines on State aid for climate, environmental protection and energy⁶ support decarbonisation plant development. The General Block Exemption Regulation⁷ helps retain skilled staff during plant transformation.

Besides, Romania listed the Liberty Galati plant under the Romanian Just Transition Programme. Its funding contributes to the steel industry's transition towards clean and efficient technologies, including training and re-skilling of staff.

These measures show the Commission's commitment to support the steel industry. Without prejudice to other EU law obligations, they can be tailored to specific strategic industrial needs. The Commission is also ready to discuss any planned measures by Romania under EU competition rules.

¹ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/publications/european-steel-and-metals-action-plan_en.

² https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/publications/industrial-accelerator-act_en.

³ https://pact-for-skills.ec.europa.eu/about/industrial-ecosystems-and-partnerships_en.

⁴ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=oj:JOC_2020_317_R_0004.

⁵ https://competition-policy.ec.europa.eu/about/contribution-clean-just-and-competitive-transition/clean-industrial-deal-state-aid-framework-cisaf_en.

⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52022XC0218%2803%29>.

⁷ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/general-block-exemption-regulation.html>.