

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001503/26
to the Commission
Nicolás González Casares (S&D)
(14 April 2026)**

Subject: Silicon metal

On 18 November 2025, the European Commission adopted Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/2351 imposing a definitive safeguard measure on imports of certain ferro-alloying elements. The Commission decided to exclude silicon metal from these measures on the grounds that the conditions were not met.

However, some European silicon metal producers such as Ferroglobe, operating in countries such as Spain and France, have had to suspend production of silicon metal and take switch to producing ferrosilicon due to the significant impact of imports from China and African countries such as Angola, which have flooded the European market at dumping prices.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Will the Commission reassess the situation and take safeguard measures in relation to the production of silicon metal?
2. Given that, as it stands, the European Union covers only 15% of its silicon needs, does it consider it acceptable for the production of silicon metal — i.e. a critical and strategic material as defined in Regulation (EU) 2024/125 — to collapse in the EU, thereby increasing its dependence on external sources?

Submitted: 14.4.2026

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(21 May 2026)**

The Commission collects and assesses data on raw materials periodically in line with the Critical Raw Materials Act ⁽¹⁾. The Commission frequently performs a risk assessment regarding its sourcing of raw materials, with the outcome of the fifth assessment published in 2023 ⁽²⁾.

Regarding safeguards, safeguard measures on four alloying elements were imposed on 18 November 2025 ⁽³⁾. Silicon is not covered by these measures as the criteria to include it were not met at the time. However, it appears that the situation has become very difficult in the meantime.

Therefore, the Commission services remain available to explore together with the industry, the availability of any possible options under the trade defence instruments.

In this context it is important to point out that the industry is facing also other challenges than harmful trade practices, such as high energy costs or structural overcapacity in third countries, and that there are limits to what can be achieved with trade defence instruments.

Silicon metal is an important material for different strategic applications within the EU, while the current domestic production represents around 30% of EUs overall silicon metal demand needs.

The Commission is aware of the challenges, but further silicon metal production could be boosted in the EU through strategic projects under the Critical Raw Materials Act.

In the last round of applications for strategic projects under the Critical Raw Materials Act, the Commission received one application from project promoters regarding silicon metal, which is currently in the assessment process.

⁽¹⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1252/oj>.

⁽²⁾ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/publications/study-critical-raw-materials-eu-2023-final-report_en.

⁽³⁾ http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/2351/oj.