

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001539/26
to the Commission
Estelle Ceulemans (S&D)
(15 April 2026)**

Subject: Protecting the European steel market from international distortions

The global steel market is characterised by heavy distortion, notably owing to massive subsidies granted by certain non-EU countries, and protectionist policies such as those currently in place in the United States. In this context, the EU seems particularly exposed to what is considered unfair competition, which further weakens steel as a strategic sector — causing European plant closures, job losses and increased dependence on imports.

In this context:

1. How does the Commission assess the effectiveness of the instruments currently in place, such as the carbon border adjustment mechanism and the trade defence measures?
2. Does it intend to bolster these tools to better protect the internal market?
3. What additional initiatives could be adopted to ensure the long-term viability of competitive and sustainable European steel production?

Submitted: 15.4.2026

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(10 June 2026)**

The carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) ⁽¹⁾ is an instrument designed to prevent carbon leakage and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Commission considers that CBAM is effectively contributing to these aims. Under the article 30 of Regulation (EU) 2023/956 ⁽²⁾, the Commission was mandated to submit a review report at the end of the CBAM transitional period which was presented in December 2025 ⁽³⁾.

On 17 December 2025, the Commission proposed measures to strengthen the CBAM. Further review reports will follow before 1 January 2028, as well as every two years thereafter to monitor the functioning of CBAM, evaluating its impacts and considering possible adjustments.

Regarding steel, on 7 October 2025, the Commission published a Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council addressing the negative trade-related effects of global overcapacity on the Union steel market ⁽⁴⁾.

Its final text was politically agreed on 13 April 2026 and, once formally approved, will enter into effect as of 1 July 2026. It will ensure, in the field of trade, highly effective protection for the EU's steel industry against the effects of global overcapacity, contributing to its long-term viability and sustainability.

The Industrial Accelerator Act ⁽⁵⁾ supports the long-term viability of European steel primarily by creating predictable demand for low-carbon steel.

It introduces minimum shares of low-carbon steel in public procurement and support schemes, helping close the cost gap and unlock investment decisions that are currently stalled despite significant project pipelines. It also accelerates permitting and prioritises industrial areas to reduce delays and bring projects faster to final investment decision.

⁽¹⁾ https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/carbon-border-adjustment-mechanism/cbam-legislation-and-guidance_en.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/956/oj/eng>.

⁽³⁾ https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/carbon-border-adjustment-mechanism/cbam-registry-and-reporting_en.

⁽⁴⁾ [https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=COM\(2025\)726&lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=COM(2025)726&lang=en).

⁽⁵⁾ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/publications/industrial-accelerator-act_en.