

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001811/26
to the Commission
Ana Miranda Paz (Verts/ALE)
(4 May 2026)**

Subject: Need to protect European silicon producers: case of the plant in Sabón, A Coruña

Sabón (A Coruña) is home to the only silicon plant in Spain, which creates jobs in a key sector, as silicon is an essential raw material for both alloys and the photovoltaic industry. However, in recent years, the industry has complained of significant economic losses owing to oversupply from China and Angola of low-cost silicon, which has caused EU prices and market share to nosedive — market share fell to 24% in 2025 from 38% in 2019 — despite the safeguard measures the EU took in November 2025. Faced with this challenge and unfair competition, the silicon sector is turning to the production of ferrosilicon; however, the cost-to-revenue imbalance is leading to significant financial losses, undermining the viability of a key Galician economic sector.

How will the Commission tailor the safeguards to the current vulnerability to a workforce restructuring that could threaten jobs at the Sabón plant?

Submitted: 4.5.2026

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(30 July 2026)**

The safeguard measures adopted by the Commission in November 2025 ⁽¹⁾ were imposed following an investigation carried out in accordance with the applicable EU and World Trade Organisation rules and apply to the specific ferro-alloy products covered by that investigation.

Silicon was examined in the course of that investigation but was not included in the safeguard measures, as the legal conditions for its inclusion were not met at that time.

The Commission continuously monitors the functioning of the safeguard measures. As provided for in the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/2351, the Commission will review the measures in the event of a change in circumstances, such as insufficient availability of ferro-alloys or unsustainable price increases for certain downstream users, and, in any event, no later than one year after their entry into force. Any review will be conducted in accordance with the applicable legal framework.

The Commission is aware of the difficult circumstances currently faced by the EU silicon industry and of the strategic importance of silicon for a range of industrial applications.

While the industry is also facing challenges such as high energy costs and structural overcapacity, the Commission remains available to engage with the industry to explore the possible use of the trade defence instruments available under EU law, where the applicable legal conditions are met.

⁽¹⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/2351 of 18 November 2025 imposing a definitive safeguard measure with regard to imports of certain ferro-alloying elements, OJ L, 2025/2351, 18.11.2025.