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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(13.8.2026)

A safeguard investigation on grain-oriented electrical steel (GOES) was initiated on 27 March 2026. If the investigation finds that an increase in imports has caused serious injury to the EU industry, the Commission can propose temporary protective measures that will allow the EU industry to make the necessary adjustments to remain competitive in the future. As part of its analysis, the Commission is closely assessing the needs of all stakeholders, including EU companies that imports high-grade GOES.

The Commission supports research and innovation activities on high quality steel, such as GOES, through the Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS)¹ and the Horizon Europe framework programme for research and innovation².

The RFCS invests EUR 81 million per year to support steel research, partly through bottom-up annual calls for proposals and partly through ‘Big Ticket’ calls focusing on large pilot and demonstration projects. A reform of the RFCS was adopted by the Council of the EU on 29 June 2026. The reform secures higher funding of up to EUR 87 million per year for steel research until 2034. Advanced steel grades and applications, such as GOES, remain eligible to the programme.

Under Horizon Europe, research on quality steels and applications is performed under the Clean Steel Partnership (CSP)³, a co-programmed public-private partnership in Cluster 4 ‘Digital, Industry and Space’ launched in 2021 and covering the period 2021-2027. For example, in 2024 a topic implementing the CSP supported projects addressing ‘innovative steel applications for low CO2 emissions, with an overall budget of EUR 20 million.

¹ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/research-fund-coal-and-steel-rfcs_en.

² https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en.

³ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/industry/sustainability/net-zero-industry-act/net-zero-navigator/list-instruments/clean-steel-partnership-horizon-europe-partnership_en.