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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(1.9.2026)

The EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)¹ and Regulation (EU) 2026/1384 ('the Steel Regulation')² are two distinct measures with different policy objectives and legal basis. Hence, these two instruments apply independently from one another to EU companies, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The Commission is closely monitoring the implementation of both the Steel Regulation and CBAM.

Please note that the CBAM simplification provides that importers with annual CBAM-covered imports of up to 50 tonnes will fall outside the scope of CBAM. Hence, the vast majority of EU small importers will not be subject to CBAM obligations. At the same time, as SMEs represent a significant share of EU operators active in the steel sector, it is not possible to exempt them from the application of the Steel Regulation. This would otherwise undermine the effectiveness of the Steel Regulation.

The tariff-rate quotas (TRQs) made available in the EU steel market by the Steel Regulation were calculated by taking as a reference the market shares of the imports into the EU in 2013 for the overall consumption in the EU steel market in 2024. 2024 was the latest year for which complete data was available. The total TRQs volumes was then subdivided in 30 product categories based on the share of imports of each product category over the period 2022-2024. The TRQs for specific countries were calculated on the basis of a common methodology rooted in several criteria, including the average 2022-2024 imports and additional TRQs made available to preferential partners of the EU. This explains the different levels of TRQs across different countries compared to average 2022-2024 imports.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/956/2025-10-20>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2026/1384/oj/eng>.