

CALL-TO-ACTION

Safeguarding the European Steel and Metals Industry

April 2026

The signatories Call on the EU national governments and the European Commission to secure European steel and metals value chains through immediate and decisive action. Without swift measures, Europe faces an accelerating process of deindustrialisation.

Europe needs effective and immediately applicable trade measures NOW

These include tariffs to stabilise the European market for steel and steel-intensive products. These and further measures must be aligned with the level of trade defence instruments already introduced by trading partners such as the United States and Canada.

Fundamentally changed geopolitical conditions require policy adjustments

The European Green Deal was developed at a time of relative geopolitical stability. Today, the EU is confronted with trade conflicts, unfair competition, sharply rising subsidised imports, and persistently high production costs. As a result, manufacturers of steel and steel-intensive products—and thus entire value chains in Europe—are acutely at risk.

Achieving EU climate targets while preserving competitiveness

The signatories fully support the EU's climate objectives. However, achieving these goals requires a fair globally competitive framework that enables European companies to decarbonise while remaining internationally competitive.

Strategic materials and components must be “Made in EU”

In line with competitors such as China, India and the United States, the European Commission and Member States must define clear “Made in EU” requirements for strategic materials such as steel and other critical products. This must be accompanied by competitive energy prices as well as targeted labour market and industrial policies to ensure security of supply, foster innovation and decarbonisation, and safeguard industrial capabilities and jobs in the EU.

Prevent job losses and new dependencies on third countries

Without decisive and immediate action, Europe risks losing more than 13 million direct jobs in the steel and metals industry. In addition, up to 65 million further jobs depend indirectly on this sector. Such losses would create new dependencies on third countries and place a massive burden on Europe's social security

systems. Economic decline of this magnitude could also lead to social unrest and jeopardise the continent's democratic stability.

The signatories call on the European Commission and EU Member State governments to implement the package of measures outlined below to safeguard and revitalise European steel and metals value chains.

Trade Defence

- New trade regime to follow up EU steel safeguard measures: Introduction of tariffs and tariff rate quotas for steel derivatives and steel intensive products (CN codes 73–95)
- Objective: Ensure fair competition and prevent circumvention

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

- Extension of CBAM to steel derivatives and steel intensive products
- Objective: Prevent carbon leakage shifting from steel to downstream products and stop the relocation of European value creation to third countries

“Made in EU”

- Prioritisation of EU produced goods and services in public procurement and funding schemes (including infrastructure projects, defence procurement, tax incentives for corporate fleets and support for e mobility)
- Objective: Preserve strategic autonomy, industrial expertise and jobs

Cost-Relief Measures

- Reduce industrial electricity prices in the EU to a maximum of 5 ct/kWh
 - Review the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) and slow the phase-out of free allowances under CBAM
 - Reduce EU-level and national bureaucracy (suspension of additional regulations and correction of existing rules)
 - Objective: Maintain international competitiveness
-

This call reflects the united position of companies and stakeholders across the entire European steel and metals value chain.

Signatories are:

XXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXX