



ASSOFERMET

COMUNICATO STAMPA

The new European Steel and Aluminium Plan endangers the circularity of the European recycling industry

Milan, 24 March 2025 - The European Steel and Metals Plan, presented by the EU Commission on 19 March, points the finger at the export of scrap and indicates a willingness to identify, as early as Q3 2025, restrictive measures with the declared aim of ensuring the availability of scrap within the territory of the Union. ASSOFERMET expresses its opposition to this approach.

The Plan presented, while admitting that the demand for ferrous scrap (recycled steel) in Europe is far lower than the current availability, considers introducing trade measures to keep the current surplus within European territory, completely ignoring the very strict restrictions already included in the Waste Shipment Regulation, published in April 2024, and without identifying concrete tools to incentivise steel production towards a greater use of recycled steel.

To claim, therefore, that we are witnessing a scrap flight is a false narrative. Every year, the recycling sector recovers more than 100 million tonnes of recycled steel, of which only 80% is used within the EU. The remaining 20%, although available on the internal market, finds no buyers and remains an unused resource. We are therefore not faced with 'scrap leakage', as claimed by the Commission. On the contrary, the placement of these materials abroad, in constant redundancy due to the structural failure of EU production, represents a fundamental pivot of the circular economy of the Union, which expresses a great capacity for collection and recycling, but does not find full internal sustainability on the part of EU producers.

ASSOFERMET – CONFCOMMERCIO IMPRESE PER L'ITALIA

Via Gaspare Gozzi 1 - 20129 Milano | Rue Montoyer, 25 - 1000 Bruxelles (c/o Euralia SA). Tel 02 76008807



ghin





ASSOFERMET

COMUNICATO STAMPA

Moreover, the plan is incomplete and only aimed at supporting production, as it does not include any concrete measures to stimulate steel and aluminium consumption that could increase demand and, consequently, boost EU production figures.

European recycling companies are companies that collect, sort and process scrap on a daily basis to turn it into recycled raw material to be fed back into the production process. They are among the most advanced in terms of efficiency and environmental sustainability thanks to decades of improvements and innovations implemented on the basis of private investment, without ever having had access to any kind of economic support. Forcing these companies to keep the surplus of ferrous scrap currently not absorbed by the EU steel industry in Europe would result in the collapse of the recycling industry, job losses and a negative impact on the environment.

Recycling is a key ally in the fight against climate change and in building a sustainable industry: we need dedicated economic incentives for research and development, targeted measures to lower energy costs, the introduction of recycled content requirements in industrial products and the inclusion of minimum percentages of recycled materials in public procurement. Obstructing recycling with protectionist measures, instead of supporting it, would mean taking a step backwards and slowing down the achievement of EU targets.

We therefore hope that the Plan will be corrected and supplemented with concrete measures to support the entire sector, leaving the dialogue open with all operators in order to implement measures that will concretely help the circular economy and the competitiveness of the steel sector, whose existence was and remains fundamental for all of us.

ASSOFERMET – CONFCOMMERCIO IMPRESE PER L'ITALIA

Via Gaspare Gozzi 1 - 20129 Milano | Rue Montoyer, 25 - 1000 Bruxelles (c/o Euralia SA) Tel. 02 76008807



ghin





ASSOFERMET

Assofermet is the trade association belonging to Confcommercio-Imprese per l'Italia that represents at national level about 450 companies in the trade, distribution and transformation sectors in four different sectors steel, with companies active in the trade, distribution, pre-processing and processing of steel products; scrap, with plants carrying out collection, recovery, recycling and trade of ferrous scrap; metals, with companies in the trade, distribution, pre-processing and processing of metallurgical products and recycling of non-ferrous scrap; hardware, with companies in the trade and distribution of hardware and DIY items. Thanks to Assofermet, member companies have access to all important general and detailed topics in their business sector, at regulatory and market level. The association is a key meeting point for companies, media and stakeholders dealing with some of the most relevant sectors for the Italian economy.

ASSOFERMET – CONFCOMMERCIO IMPRESE PER L'ITALIA

Via Gaspare Gozzi 1 - 20129 Milano | Rue Montoyer, 25 - 1000 Bruxelles (c/o Euralia SA). Tel 02 76008807



ghin

