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# Eurometaux Statement on the Commission's Proposal on the New Steel Trade Measure

Eurometaux, the European non-ferrous metals association, welcomes the European Commission's proposal on a post-safeguards tool for the steel industry.

The proposed trade measure constitutes a forceful response from the EU for the protection of the EU steel sector from unfair impacts of global overcapacity, and for ensuring the long-term viability of a strategically crucial industry. This proposal is, in several aspects, groundbreaking. Whilst being fully WTO compatible, it contains special provisions aimed at avoiding circumvention and more robustly ringfencing against the spillover effects of global overcapacity.

Current trade defence instruments in the EU often remain insufficient and ill-equipped to address the effects of unfair trade practices and overcapacity on the EU industry. The sometimes overly stringent criteria and conditions for safeguards remain difficult to meet and are, to an extent, disconnected from the realities of the market for the different value chain. Moreover, the cumbersome procedures make it that measures often come too late to tackle the impact of global competitors' actions and allow for circumvention practices hindering their overall efficiency. Finally, they create uncertainty about the proper functioning of the European Economic Area (EEA), by affecting — as is the case for ferroalloys — the production of goods within the Single Market.

Whilst the European Parliament and the Council agree on the final regulation, we encourage the Commission to explore, without further delay, the possibility of extending the new trade measure as a blueprint for safeguarding Europe's wider industrial value chains, in particular in the non-ferrous metals sector.

**The scope of this new tool should be extended to other sectors affected by similar unfair trade practices and overcapacities within the non-ferrous metals industry.** The framework should not be limited to steel but rather be opened to other sectors facing similar challenges. In parallel, the Commission should continue the implementation of the other pillars of the Steel and Metals Actions plan and lead international work on finding structural solutions to effectively tackle the root causes of global overcapacity. In line with the principles of the new steel measures, it is vital for the integrity of the Single Market for raw materials that the EEA and EFTA countries (i.e. Norway and Iceland) are exempted from such a mechanism. A balanced outcome should be achieved to ensure that other EU strategic partners, such as Canada and Australia, are also protected against these trade defence measures.

Non-ferrous metals are crucial to the EU green and digital transition and defence objectives, given their wide range of applications in different sectors. Increasing access to critical raw materials in Europe will support the goals of the Critical Raw Materials Act to develop a local raw materials value chain and strengthen the EU industrial competitiveness and strategic autonomy.

Therefore, a more assertive EU trade agenda is needed to protect the non-ferrous metals industry against unfair trade practices.



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**About Eurometaux:** Eurometaux is the voice of non-ferrous metals producers and recyclers in Europe. We are an umbrella association representing the interests of the combined non-ferrous metals industry towards EU policymakers. In total, the industry employs directly 500,000 people and indirectly more than 3 million across over 900 production facilities, with an annual turnover of €120bn.

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