

**Question for written answer E-014851/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Catherine Bearder (ALDE)**

Subject: Measures being taken to support the European steel sector

The European steel sector is under significant pressure from surging imports, often unfairly traded, leading to price depression and job losses. So far this year the EU has seen an unprecedented rise in potentially 'dumped' imports, and it is fully expected that this surge will further increase during 2016. In the first quarter of 2015, imports of steel from China were more than four times higher than in the same period in 2014. Already this year, four steel product categories are subject to trade defence measures, while another two are under investigation and further product categories are a major cause for concern. Yet these measures are failing to prevent the flooding of the EU market and significant loss of jobs across the European steel sector.

What further action are the Commission and Council taking to support the European steel sector?

What immediate steps is the Commission taking, following the Competitiveness Council meeting of 9 November 2015, to speed up the anti-dumping investigation process and ensure that provisional duties come into force much sooner than is currently the case?

What indirect measures can Member States take to support their steel industries, for example through domestic energy policy?