

Question for written answer E-015360/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Claude Rolin (PPE)

Subject: Restructuring of the European steel industry

In the European steel industry there have over the past few years been repeated instances of restructuring, and some plants have been mothballed. The root cause lies in what can be termed unfair competition from certain countries, one example being China. Aware of the difficulties that were occurring, the previous Commission launched an action plan to help the industry. Although I welcomed the Commission's declaration of intent at that time, the inescapable conclusion now is that this plan is not enough, as the recent restructuring operations in the United Kingdom have just served to demonstrate.

Can the Commission therefore say how it will approach the following avenues, which to my mind are necessary in order to protect this highly strategic sector:

- shortening the time allowed before imposing trade protection measures,
- reinstating the old prior surveillance system, which some of those working in the industry consider to be more effective, and
- modernising trade defence instruments?