

**Question for written answer E-014777/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Benefits of using sustainable steel in public procurement and of implementing the SustSteel initiative

In its 'Action Plan for a competitive and sustainable steel industry in Europe' and its subsequent Staff Working Document, the Commission recognised the potential of the SustSteel initiative for boosting the market share of EU sustainable steel construction products. This was fully supported by Parliament in its resolution of December 2014¹.

Moreover, recognising the benefits of using sustainable steel in public procurement policies should also be considered. In current public procurement practices, European and national administrations are not considering anything other than quality and price, which yields a massive export of EU jobs and import of CO₂ emissions from third countries.

Given that our competitors do not have the same social, economic and environmental standards and that the steel sector in Europe is still facing major challenges, these initiatives should be considered, especially in view of the forthcoming communication on a circular economy.

1. Can the Commission explain how it intends to implement the SustSteel initiative, and with what timeline?
2. How does the Commission intend to implement requirements related to the environmental and social aspects of sustainability in public procurement and public works in the EU, so as to achieve a level playing field?
3. Can the Commission explain how it intends to use the forthcoming circular economy communication in this regard?

¹ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2014)0104.