

EUROPEAN STEEL REVIEW

October 2025

Downstream sectors question EU bid to protect steelmakers

Industry associations and market participants fear that the European Commission's proposed replacement for its import safeguard measures could cause lasting harm to downstream steel-consuming companies and EU manufacturing.

Under the plan, tariff-free quota volumes would be cut by 47% and above-quota tariffs doubled to 50%, from July 1, 2026. If approved, the new trade defence mechanism will also introduce a requirement for importers to disclose the location of "melt and pour" for all third-country material and end the rollover of unused steel import quotas from one quarter to the next.

European Commission Executive Vice-President Stéphane Séjourné announced details of the measures in a press conference on October 7. He said that the changes were necessary to protect the EU steel industry from global steelmaking overcapacity. This is projected to reach 721 million tonnes by 2027, five times the EU's current level of consumption.

Tightening the region's import quotas and aligning its above-quota tariff rate with that of the United States could also benefit the EU's trade negotiations with the US. Currently, the United Kingdom is the only nation to negotiate a reduction of the Section 232 steel import tariff, to 25%.

Mixed reaction to trade defence proposal

Eurofer described the Commission's proposed trade defence measures as a "real lifeline for EU steelmakers and steelworkers". Others have criticised the plan.

In the UK, trade body UK Steel described the proposed EU tariffs as an existential threat to the nation's steel industry. Last year, 78% of the UK's steel output was exported to the EU. UK Steel director general said that the UK must secure a country-specific steel import quota with the European Commission or "potentially face disaster".

Flat Rolled Products - Negotiated Domestic Basis Prices - Germany

EUR/tonne		May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25
Hot Rolled Coil	High	650	620	570	570	590	590
	Low	630	600	550	550	560	560
Hot Rolled Plate	High	700	670	650	650	660	660
	Low	660	650	630	620	620	620
Cold Rolled Coil	High	750	720	670	670	690	690
	Low	720	700	650	650	660	660
Hot Dipped Galvanised Coil	High	760	730	690	690	700	700
	Low	740	710	670	670	670	670
Electro-Zinc Coated Coil	High	780	750	730	730	730	730
	Low	760	730	700	700	700	700

The EU's steel importers, stockists and end-users have also criticised the plan. The future price of their steel imports is currently unknown due to a lack of clarity about CBAM charges. They fear that reduced import quotas and higher duties will raise prices further, potentially risking their business models. Under the plans, the EU's tariff-free steel import quotas would be cut from 33m tonnes to 18m tonnes, reducing the market share of third-country material to 13%.

Italy's steel distributors trade association, Assofermet, argued that the measures would protect EU steelmakers at the expense of all downstream distribution and manufacturing businesses, which "form the backbone of European competitiveness". It added that the creation of "a captive market" would bring "significant rise in prices".

MEPS's Europe Average price was stable to up EUR6 per tonne, across coil products, as transaction prices stagnated amid continued low demand, this month. However, following the Commission's announcement ArcelorMittal raised its offers for hot rolled coil by EUR20 per tonne for December delivery, with a further EUR20 per tonne rise for January delivery. ArcelorMittal's price rises were partly attributed to reduced production following an October 8 fire at its Fos-sur-Mer facility, in Southern France.

The tightening of supply that would accompany the EU's proposed import restrictions would add significant impetus for further domestic price increases in the longer term.

Industry stakeholders to have their say

Europe's struggling automotive sector has also expressed concern about the rising trend of protectionism. The sector sources around 90% of its steel from domestic sources. However, Sigrid de Vries, director general at the European automotive industry association, ACEA, said that the Commission risked going too far in ring-fencing the European market. Increased steel prices will harm the competitiveness of European carmakers, which already face a cost disadvantage of 30-40% in comparison to their Chinese rivals.

There is a further risk for EU manufacturers. The European Commission's proposed trade defence mechanism must now be approved by all 27 member states, each of which have differing exposure to steel imports and exports. If approved, the EU may have to pay compensation or face retaliatory tariffs, on various goods, from key trading partners. Consequently, negotiations over the incoming measures could be protracted.

Long Products - Negotiated Domestic Basis Prices - Germany

EUR/tonne		May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25
Wire Rod (Drawing Quality)	High	670	660	650	640	630	620
	Low	640	630	620	610	600	590
Medium Sections and Beams	High	790	780	760	755	750	750
	Low	780	770	750	745	740	730
Reinforcing Bar	High	425	400	380	370	360	350
	Low	400	380	370	360	350	340
Merchant Bar	High	300	290	270	265	260	250
	Low	280	270	260	255	250	240

MEPS - Steel Price Index API Line Pipe X60/65 Composite

	Hot Rolled Plate		Hot Rolled Coil	
	Q2/25	Q3/25	Q2/25	Q3/25
Europe Av				
Non Sour	123.9	120.3	134.7	129.5
Sour	141.9	138.1	141.3	136.3

* Q4/06 = 100 - based on euro values

MEPS - Steel Purchasing Price Index - Automotive Auto Body Parts Composite Index

	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25
Europe Average	94.3	94.6	94.8
Year-on-year % +/-	-6.3	-2.9	2.8

* Jan 2007 = 100 - based on transaction prices

Flat Products

Coils

Northern Europe's auto issues stall demand further

Northern Europe's coil prices remain largely unchanged, this month, as demand remained depressed and automotive sector suppliers faced new challenges.

Mills and service centres serving the automotive supply chain suffered a further reduction in steel consumption due to plant closures at Stellantis and JLR. Stellantis began a series of temporary closures of up to three weeks in Italy, Poland, Germany, Spain and three sites in France, in October. JLR was forced to pause all manufacturing for more than five weeks following an August 31 cyber attack.

European automotive production had already declined by 2.6% in the first half of 2025, according to ACEA, the region's industry association. That followed an annual decline of 6.2% year-on-year in 2024.

This month's automotive sector disruption comes as steelmakers and carmakers prepared to start their 2026 contract negotiations at EuroBlech, in Hanover (October 20-23). MEPS respondents in Germany expect mills to target increases of EUR50-80 per tonne. However, low spot market prices are likely to undermine their aspirations.

EU mills' attempts to increase coil prices in September failed to gain traction after a post-holiday pickup in demand quickly stalled. Buyers in Belgium and Germany say that mills' distribution divisions are offering prices below those for new production.

Most MEPS respondents in Belgium, France, Germany and the United Kingdom reported no improvement in demand this month, some describing the market as "dead". France's continued political crisis is harming sentiment there. The government's inability to approve an annual budget continues to stall infrastructure investments.

Imports continue to oversupply 'dead' market

Across Northern EU countries, new import orders are largely dismissed by buyers due to uncertainty over CBAM charges applicable from January 1. The proposed tightening of the EU's import safeguard measures, from July 1, 2026, will further focus buyers on domestic procurement.

Many buyers expect EU mills to resume their price rise attempts in response. However, high inventories will combine with weak demand to maintain the downward pressure on prices. MEPS respondents say that large German stockists are "overstocked" and imports continue to arrive at EU ports. Some importers may even opt to pay the current above-quota safeguard duties to customs clear material now rather than face the uncertainty of CBAM-related costs in the new year or increased safeguard duties from next summer.

In the UK, ports are filled with coil that was not customs cleared in time for the opening of the quarter four quota period on October 1.

Comparison of Low Market Domestic Basis Prices - Cold Rolled Coil

price/ tonne	Local currency		US dollars	
	Last Month	This Month	Last Month	This Month
Germany	660	660	772	774
France	660	670	772	785
Italy	640	640	749	750
UK	555	555	752	748
Belgium	660	660	772	774
Spain	645	660	754	774

Note: Exchange rates used for conversion are based on the figures given in our currency exchange rate table.

Flat Rolled Products - Negotiated Domestic Basis Prices

		Germany EUR/t	France EUR/t	Italy EUR/t	UK GBP/t	UK EUR/t	Belgium EUR/t	Spain EUR/t
Hot Rolled Coil	High	590	590	570	500	575	590	580
	Low	560	565	545	480	552	565	560
Hot Rolled Plate	High	660	660	620	600	690	660	640
	Low	620	620	590	575	661	620	610
Cold Rolled Coil	High	690	690	670	585	672	690	685
	Low	660	670	640	555	638	660	660
Hot Dipped Galvanised Coil	High	700	690	680	605	695	700	680
	Low	670	670	650	580	667	670	660
Electro-Zinc Coated Coil	High	730	730	710	650	747	730	715
	Low	700	700	685	620	713	700	695

Month on Month % Change

Hot Rolled Coil	Low	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	-0.7	0.0	1.8
Hot Rolled Plate	Low	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.8	0.0	0.0
Cold Rolled Coil	Low	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	-0.6	0.0	2.3
HD Galv Coil	Low	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	-0.6	0.0	1.5
EZ Coated Coil	Low	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.7	0.0	1.5

Price & Product Definitions

MEPS International's published price assessments relate to regular business, between buyers and steel mills, for newly produced, prime material, negotiated during the current month, for forward delivery. They refer to commercial grade steel for use in general industrial applications.

Quarterly, half-yearly and annual contract prices are excluded from the MEPS published assessments. These longer-term agreements are calculated using various methods and may not reflect the movements or absolute level of prices negotiated for regular monthly business.

Carbon steel basis prices exclude extras for dimensions of the product – for example thickness, width and diameter. They also exclude extras for coating, when coating is traditionally charged at an additional cost.

All prices exclude carbon and energy surcharges.

The recent tightening of the UK's safeguard quotas has led to importers diversifying their galvanised coil sources, however. The South Korea and Vietnam quotas were filled in the opening days of the new quota period. Importers are now turning to suppliers in Turkey and India.

Southern Europe's importers adjust supply strategies

A sense of uncertainty among South European coil buyers was heightened by this month's announcement of proposed trade defence measures that would nearly halve the EU's tariff-free import quotas.

The European Commission's plans for tighter import controls from July 1, 2026, adds to the existing lack of clarity about the cost of CBAM taxes, which will come into effect on January 1. Most estimates calculate CBAM taxes at EUR40-80 per tonne, depending on the product, production route and country of origin.

As a result of this confusion, imports have largely stopped. In a bid to secure sales, traders in Southern Europe are offering material on a customs cleared basis, with estimated CBAM costs included.

Many buyers have shifted their procurement to regional suppliers, but orders remain limited in a context of subdued demand. Most buyers' coil requirements are covered for the fourth quarter and part of the first quarter next year, with deliveries expected in October and November from both third-country and European mills. Domestic mills are quoting November delivery for new hot rolled coil orders, with cold rolled and galvanised coil delivery lead times now extending into December.

Customs clearance of the fourth quarter safeguard quotas started on October 1. Some quotas have already filled up. These include hot rolled coils from Taiwan and Turkey and cold rolled coils from Turkey. The 4A galvanised coil quota for Vietnam and Taiwan, and the 4B quota for China are also full. This has led to safeguard duties of 5-11%, amounting to as much as EUR70-80 per tonne.

South EU importers pay duties amid cost confusion

Most importers are opting to customs clear material now, paying safeguard duties rather than awaiting the start of the next quota period on January 1, when material will become subject to CBAM taxes.

Other safeguard quotas are also well utilised, including those for cold rolled coils from Taiwan and Japan and galvanised coils from Turkey. MEPS respondents expect these quotas to be filled as further shipments arrive in the coming weeks.

Sizeable tonnages of Indonesian-origin coil, which is not subject to any duties, are also due to arrive before the end of the year. Tariff-free imports from Saudi Arabia and the UAE are also expected. This will keep stocks at a high level in quarter four.

Even though some distributors have continued to sell material at low prices, there is a desire to reevaluate their stock levels, as prices are poised to increase.

European mills have increased their coil price offers following the Commission's October 7 proposal of tighter trade defence measures. Limited increases were accepted by some buyers, especially those in Spain.

The announcement of a new antidumping investigation into cold rolled coils from India, Japan, Taiwan, Turkey and Vietnam may also reduce the supply of that product, applying upward pressure to prices. The investigation will reduce the appeal of imports into a segment where European production is limited. Nonetheless, buyers have recently placed new orders for South Korean-origin material, for February delivery, that may be subject to antidumping duties. These deals were settled with part of an estimated CBAM tax included.

Even though buyers expect prices to rise in the coming weeks, especially for February-March delivery, they are doubtful that end-users will be able to absorb any increases.

Plate

Threat of rising costs and duties fails to raise prices

Tightening international trade restrictions and the rising production costs of European integrated mills and rerollers failed to influence plate prices, this month.

MEPS respondents expect plate imports to be significantly affected by CBAM charges that will be implemented from January 1. Most EU importers have stopped placing new orders due to uncertainty about these costs. Rerollers, meanwhile, are growing increasingly concerned about the cost implications for their slab feedstock.

Modest increases in the cost of iron ore, coking coal and scrap are also squeezing domestic producers' profit margins. MEPS analysis indicates that European steelmakers' production costs have risen by around 8% in the past four months. Nonetheless, plate prices remained unchanged in all six countries assessed for this report, during MEPS's latest research period.

Mills' efforts to raise prices gained no traction this month. Price increases were announced after the European Commission's October 7 proposal of a replacement for its current import safeguard measures. However, these have not yet been reflected in MEPS's prices, which are based on completed sales transactions.

Many market participants doubt whether buyers will accept any increases in the coming weeks. Plate inventories remain high at port warehouses across Europe, and demand remains weak. Stockholders also have elevated stocks. In Germany, some say that sales were down 20-50% year-on-year in late September and remain subdued. Buyers mostly procure only small volumes of commodity grade material to cover their immediate needs.

Intense competition for limited sales

Adding to the competition for sales in Germany is the growing presence Czechia's Vítkovice Steel. MEPS respondents say that the steelmaker is targeting new customers following Huta Czestochowa's re-emergence in the Polish market.

Service centres in Germany and the United Kingdom say that Chinese plate suppliers are also increasingly present. They are offering flamecutting and fabrication services, producing finished products which will avoid EU safeguard duties.

EU mills continue to benefit from project work, but opportunities are limited. Italy's EUR191.5 billion National Recovery and Resilience Plan funding is driving investment in energy and transport infrastructure in that country.

In France, MEPS respondents described shipbuilding activity on the Atlantic coast as "steady". Plate demand for military applications is strong but confined to government approved contracts for speciality grades.

In the UK, low demand is placing increased financial pressure on stockists. A plentiful supply of imports is maintaining downward pressure on prices, squeezing profit margins.

The UK safeguard measures' new quarterly quota period opened on October 1. Following the application of a 20% cap on individual countries' use of the tariff-free plate quota, South Korea's 5,080-tonne allocation was quickly filled.

The UK's antidumping investigation into South Korean plate is ongoing. Indonesian-origin plate is now the market's lowest-cost option. This remains tariff-free due to Indonesia's categorisation as a developing economy.

Long Products

Rebar & Wire Rod

Northern Europe construction slowdown still stalling sales

Challenging trading conditions persist in Northern Europe as supply continues to outstrip demand and the construction sector shows little sign of improvement.

MEPS prices, for both rebar and wire rod, were down in Belgium and Germany, this month, with values remaining stable in the United Kingdom. In Germany the price of rebar is at its lowest level for two years, with UK prices at their lowest since December 2020.

The HCOB Construction PMIs for both Germany and the UK were recorded at 46.2 in September. Both scores represented modest month-on-month improvements. However, a score below the 50 indicates a sector in contraction. MEPS respondents in both countries say that there are few signs of improved demand from construction sectors suffering the effects of a sustained downturn.

In Germany, wire rod demand from the civil engineering sector encouraged a modest improvement in sentiment, this month. Demand is growing, albeit from a low level.

Most buyers of rebar and wire rod in Germany say that they continue to keep their purchasing to a minimum and are not buying for stock. They can procure material from regional steel manufacturers at short notice. Competitively priced finished wire imports from China are also readily available in the local market.

MEPS respondents in Belgium say that service centres are competing fiercely for sales. Procurement activity remains limited as purchasing managers in the country continue to buy only what they need. They are reluctant to make long-term purchasing commitments.

Market sentiment is downbeat in the UK. Demand is low and supply plentiful. Buyers say that domestic wire rod producer, British Steel, which is now under UK government control, is offering short delivery lead times to domestic customers.

The Bank of England's decision to maintain interest rates at 4% in its September meeting, in an attempt to control inflationary pressures, will do little to support the domestic housing market. Furthermore, the country's steel market participants are concerned about the effect of rising taxes, which are expected to be announced in the government's November economic budget.

Mills accept lower prices to secure orders in S. Europe

Subdued demand and falling scrap prices increased the downward pressure on wire rod and rebar prices in France, Italy and Spain, this month, with mills accepting further concessions to secure orders.

MEPS research shows that wire rod prices have declined by EUR10-20 per tonne month-on-month.

However, MEPS respondents believe that prices may be at the bottom of the cycle. Increases are expected due to the effect of tightening trade defence measures on import volumes. Despite a decline in the price of offers from third-country suppliers, few South European buyers are placing new orders because of uncertainty linked to CBAM and the EU's proposed replacement for its current safeguard measures.

South European wire rod processors have been customs clearing material after the opening of the quarter four safeguard quotas on October 1. Algeria's tariff-free quota was quickly filled, while the Turkish, Egyptian and Indonesian quotas are also well utilised. Imports have also been arriving from quota-free origins such as Tunisia and Malaysia.

On the rebar market, Italian prices declined by EUR40 per tonne month-on-month in October. Competition between domestic mills remains strong.

However, these prices may represent the bottom of the current cycle as they no longer cover mills' production costs. Some producers may choose to pause production. Early shutdowns, in December, are already under consideration.

Rebar prices have been more stable in France and Spain. Spanish prices have been fluctuating in a narrow price range as mills attempted to raise prices, once again, after failing to do so at the beginning of last month. In France, prices are lower in the south of the country due to the presence of cheaper material from Italy.

Beams & Merchant Bar

Mills fail to realise price rises in Northern Europe

ArcelorMittal's recent list price hike of EUR30 per tonne across its long product division failed to gain any market support in Northern Europe, this month.

German and Belgian market participants say that other European beam and bar mills decided not to follow the steelmaker's lead. Consequently, these producers were able to secure deals at prices close to those achieved in September.

MEPS respondents report that steelmakers such as Celsa and Salzgitter may have decided against applying similar pricing initiatives because of a reduction in scrap costs. Competition for sales remains intense due to a lack of any post-summer recovery in demand.

With limited expectations of any demand improvement during the seasonally slow fourth quarter, regional steel manufacturers will be keen to plug shortfalls in their production schedules. However, some are already planning extended shutdowns at the end of the year. This will help to align their production to current market demand.

In Germany, demand for beams is being largely sustained by existing long-term infrastructure projects, including bridge strengthening developments. Day-to-day spot market business remains slow.

Cautious procurement strategies are also being adopted by buyers in Belgium. Participants throughout the country's beam and bar supply chains are only purchasing small quantities, ahead of the calendar year end.

MEPS respondents in the UK report low end-user demand, with little improvement indicated by key sectoral PMIs. The HCOB UK Construction PMI improved from 45.5 in August to 46.2 in September. A score below 50 indicates a sector in contraction. Meanwhile, the S&P Global UK Manufacturing PMI fell to a five-month low of 46.2 in September, down from 47.0 in August. Manufacturers report that new orders, from customers both at home and abroad, continue to fall. US tariff uncertainty is a contributory factor.

Long Products - Negotiated Domestic Basis Prices

		Germany EUR/t	France EUR/t	Italy EUR/t	UK GBP/t	UK EUR/t	Belgium EUR/t	Spain EUR/t
Wire Rod (Drawing Quality)	High	620	620	590	520	598	620	580
	Low	590	590	570	500	575	590	570
Medium Sections and Beams	High	750	765	770	650	747	750	740
	Low	730	750	750	630	724	740	720
Rebar	High	350	350	280	515	592	350	360
	Low	340	335	250	500	575	340	340
Merchant Bar	High	250	225	270	610	701	240	250
	Low	240	215	250	580	667	220	230

Month on Month % Change

Wire Rod	Low	-1.7	-1.7	-1.7	0.0	-0.7	-1.7	-3.4
Medium Sections	Low	-1.4	-1.3	-1.3	0.0	-0.7	0.0	-1.4
Rebar	Low	-2.9	-1.5	-13.8	0.0	-0.7	-2.9	-2.9
Merchant Bar	Low	-4.0	-2.3	-3.8	0.0	-0.6	0.0	2.2

Price & Product Definitions

MEPS International's published price assessments relate to regular business, between buyers and steel mills, for newly produced, prime, commercial quality material, negotiated during the current month, for forward delivery.

All prices exclude carbon and energy surcharges.

Prices for low carbon drawing quality wire rod and medium sections (I beams) refer to effective values, including size extras. Prices for rebar and merchant bar refer to basis values, excluding size extras, with the exception of those in the UK.

Disclaimer

All price and market data, in this report, is researched by MEPS International's staff and its local correspondents. The information is obtained from respondents who the company consider provide accurate intelligence on the steel market. The company makes its best endeavours to be assured that the information is correct and that its analysis is reliable. MEPS International Ltd. cannot be made liable for any loss resulting from the use of the published data, however it may arise.

Longer-term projects, particularly those associated with the building of new data centres, provide some cause for optimism among UK steel market participants. Furthermore, they report that a pickup in infrastructure-related activity in the neighbouring Republic of Ireland – including the construction of a new metro-rail link between Dublin airport and the city centre – may provide export opportunities.

Mill price negotiations deliver concessions in S. Europe

Buyers in France, Italy and Spain confirm that sections mills have been open to negotiations to book orders, which has led to price reductions of up to EUR10 per tonne, this month.

Sales volumes were good in September, especially in France, where metallic house-frame manufacturers have maintained their sales at a satisfactory level. However, the country's ongoing political crisis – centred on the government's failed attempts to gain approval for its 2026 budget – is delaying the adoption of measures needed to support the construction sector. This is contributing to buyers' cautious approach to steel procurement.

In Italy, an ongoing public investment programme continues to guarantee a reasonable level of consumption. However, this mainly benefits large end-users, while the country's distribution sector is suffering the effects of low demand.

The HCOB Italy Construction PMI rose to 49.8 in September, from 47.7 in August. A score below 50 indicates a sector in contraction. September's figure represents Italy's smallest level of decline for three months. The HCOB France Construction PMI fell to 42.9 in September, from 46.7 in August.

In Spain, sales volumes have generally been stable. A pickup in activity in early September was not sustained, leaving mills unable to raise their beam prices. They have started to push up merchant bar prices, however, amid profit margins that had reached critically low levels.

Nonetheless, French and Italian merchant bar buyers report that the lowest quotes in their domestic markets are still being offered by Spanish suppliers. So far, the market leader has been unable to raise prices due, in part, to low demand and falling scrap prices.

Italian mills are considering extended stoppages towards the end of the year due to their reduced profit margins.

Market & Industry Scene

Metinvest

Metinvest and Danieli have moved one step closer to their proposed EUR3 billion green steel flat product joint venture in Piombino, Italy.

The two companies have signed an agreement to formalise their interests in the Metinvest Adria subsidiary which will oversee the development of the new facility in Tuscany. Under the terms of the agreement, Metinvest will hold a 75% equity stake in the new enterprise, while Danieli retains the remaining shares.

The planned EAF-based facility, to be built on the former JSW Piombino site that Metinvest took control of in 2024, will have an annual production capacity of up to 2.7 million tonnes, when completed.

Trade Defence – EU

The European Commission has confirmed the imposition of definitive antidumping duties on hot rolled coils sourced from Egypt, Japan and Vietnam.

Japan's Tokyo Steel is subject to a rate of 6.9% due to its cooperation with the Commission's investigation and fairer pricing, while Daido Steel and JFE Steel were assigned a 9.8% rate. All other Japanese steelmakers are subject to a 30% duty. Vietnamese exporters, except for Hoa Phat Group, will receive a rate of 12.1%.

All Egyptian producers face a duty of 11.7%. Meanwhile, Indian-origin material, which was included in the original investigation, will not be subject to a duty after the Commission found no evidence of dumping.

The Commission has also launched an antidumping investigation covering cold rolled coil imports from India, Japan, Taiwan, Turkey and Vietnam.

The new investigation follows a complaint submitted to the Commission by Eurofer in August. It will assess imports from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. Preliminary duties are expected no later than May 2026, if dumping is confirmed, with definitive duties potentially following four to six months later.

SSAB

Swedish steelmaker SSAB has held a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of its new EAF-based green steel facility in Luleå, Sweden.

The project consists of two scrap- and DRI-fed EAFs with a combined annual output of 2.5 million tonnes. This equipment will replace the blast furnace-based production currently operating at the site.

Additionally, the company plans to modernise the Luleå site's hot and cold rolling equipment. SSAB's total investment at the site will amount to EUR4.5bn. Commissioning is currently scheduled in the second half of 2029.

Medium Term Price Forecasts

Import restrictions and rising mill costs to raise prices

European steel prices are forecast to begin a modest recovery in late 2025 as CBAM taxes and new EU trade defence measures begin to restrict imports, prompting domestic mills to push for increases.

MEPS research identified continued caution among buyers, in October, as subdued demand undermined mills' price increases. However, both long and flat product prices are expected to gain support in late 2025 and into mid-2026 as import competition eases and sentiment firms.

Hot rolled coil prices are forecast to rise by 4-5% by December, followed by a further 10-12% increase by mid-2026. Prices are expected to decline during the second half of 2026 as EU importers adapt their supply chains to minimise their CBAM costs and some of the market's policy-driven supply tightness abates. Hot rolled plate is forecast to follow a similar price trend.

MEPS forecasts that long product prices will bottom in October, with modest gains from November. Potential increases in scrap and energy costs over the winter will support mills' efforts to raise prices in order to mitigate the negative effect on their profit margins. Nonetheless, elevated interest rates, implemented by the European Central Bank to combat inflation, may continue to limit the scale of any construction sector recovery. Any demand recovery is, therefore, expected to be modest.

Europe's economy continues to suffer from demand weakness in its automotive, machinery and residential construction sectors. However, worldsteel forecasts indicate that steel demand will bottom in 2025, providing hope of increased consumption in 2026. In its latest outlook report, worldsteel said that demand will grow by 3.2% in 2026, supported by increased infrastructure and defence spending, an easing of inflation, improving credit conditions and a gradual recovery in real household incomes.

Uncertainty over the cost of CBAM taxes, which will be implemented from January 1, 2026, will continue to reduce steel buyers' appetite for imports. Furthermore, the European Commission's proposed replacement for its current import safeguard measures is expected to restrict imports further as its July 1, 2026, implementation date nears. The proposed new mechanism would cut the EU's annual tariff-free steel import quota from 36 million tonnes to 18.3m tonnes. It would also apply a 50% above-quota tariff and a "melt and pour" traceability requirement to curb circumvention.

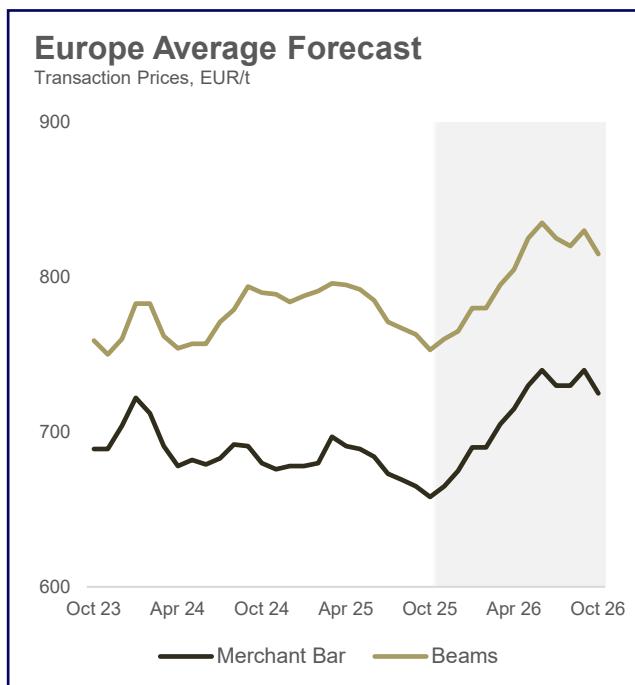
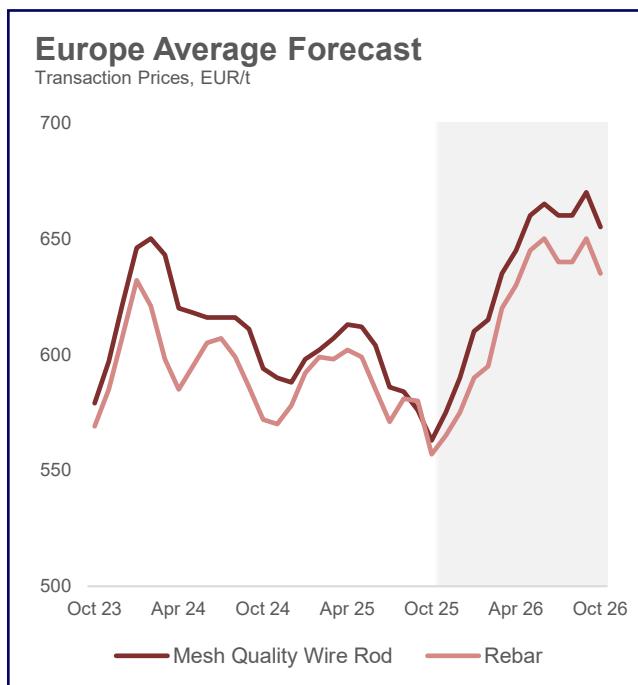
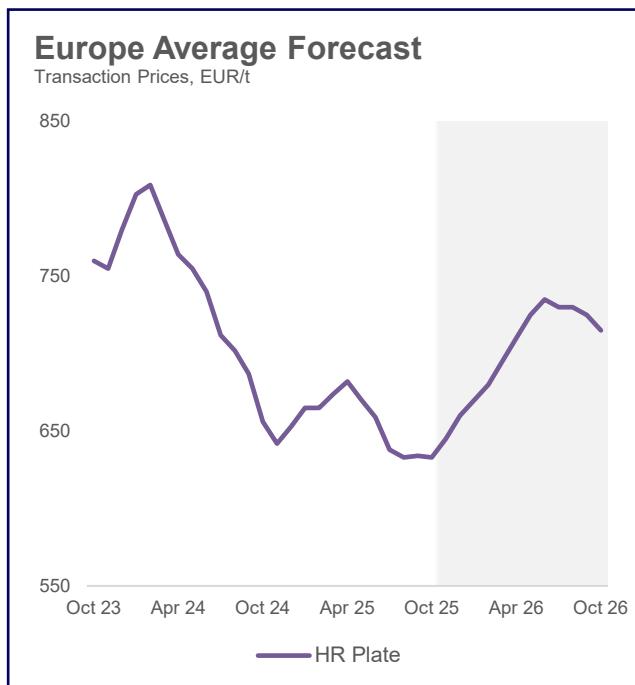
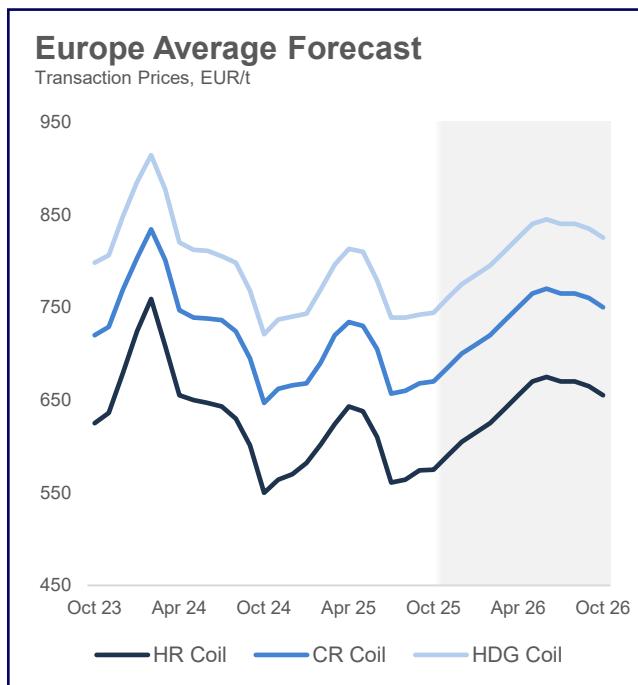
This, along with elevated prices for iron ore and coking coal, is forecast to provide continued upward pressure on steel prices in the months ahead, strengthening mills' resolve to raise their offers.

Europe Average Domestic Transaction Price Forecasts

	EUR/tonne											
	HR Coil	HR Plate	CR Coil	HDG Coil	EZ Coil	DQ Wire Rod	Mesh Wire Rod	I Beam	H Beam	Rebar	Round Bar	Equal Angle
May-25	638	670	730	810	847	627	612	773	792	599	693	689
Jun-25	610	659	705	779	818	619	604	765	785	585	689	684
Jul-25	561	638	657	739	790	604	586	751	771	571	677	673
Aug-25	564	633	660	739	789	598	584	747	767	581	673	669
Sep-25	574	634	668	742	790	591	576	743	763	580	669	665
Oct-25	575	633	670	744	790	581	563	734	753	557	662	658
Nov-25	590	645	685	760	805	590	575	740	760	565	670	665
Dec-25	605	660	700	775	820	605	590	745	765	575	680	675
Jan-26	615	670	710	785	830	625	610	760	780	590	695	690
Feb-26	625	680	720	795	840	635	615	760	780	595	695	690
Mar-26	640	695	735	810	855	650	635	775	795	620	710	705
Apr-26	655	710	750	825	870	660	645	785	805	630	720	715
May-26	670	725	765	840	885	675	660	805	825	645	735	730
Jun-26	675	735	770	845	890	680	665	815	835	650	745	740
Jul-26	670	730	765	840	885	675	660	805	825	640	735	730
Aug-26	670	730	765	840	885	675	660	800	820	640	735	730
Sep-26	665	725	760	835	880	685	670	810	830	650	745	740
Oct-26	655	715	750	825	870	670	655	795	815	635	730	725

Price Definitions

MEPS regional average steel prices for Europe are computed from a weighted average of prices in Germany, France, Italy, Spain and the UK. The weighting is based on steel consumption in individual countries. Prices are collected in the appropriate local currency and converted into euros to provide a basis for comparison.



Transaction Price Data Sheet								
Negotiated Domestic Transaction Prices								
Flat Products		Europe Average	Germany	France	Italy	UK	UK	Spain
			EUR/t	EUR/t	EUR/t	GBP/t		
Hot Rolled Coil	High	600	611	611	588	520	598	601
	Low	575	581	586	563	500	575	581
Hot Rolled Plate	High	670	675	675	635	614	706	655
	Low	633	635	635	605	589	677	625
Cold Rolled Coil	High	699	706	706	685	599	689	701
	Low	670	676	686	655	569	654	676
Hot Dipped Galvanised Coil	High	771	775	765	755	695	799	755
	Low	744	745	745	725	670	770	735
Electro-Zinc Coated Coil	High	819	823	823	803	720	828	808
	Low	790	793	793	778	690	793	788
Long Products		Europe Average	Germany	France	Italy	UK	UK	Spain
			EUR/t	EUR/t	EUR/t	GBP/t		
Wire Rod (Drawing Quality)	High	605	620	620	590	520	598	580
	Low	581	590	590	570	500	575	570
Wire Rod (Mesh Quality)	High	582	590	595	570	510	586	570
	Low	563	570	575	550	490	563	560
Medium Sections (I Beam)	High	754	750	765	770	650	747	740
	Low	734	730	750	750	630	724	720
Medium Sections (H Beam)	High	773	770	785	790	665	764	760
	Low	753	750	770	770	645	741	740
Reinforcing Bar	High	579	610	610	540	515	592	620
	Low	557	600	595	510	500	575	600
Merchant Bar (Round)	High	679	675	650	695	610	701	675
	Low	662	665	640	675	580	667	655
Merchant Bar (Equal Angle)	High	675	670	645	690	610	701	670
	Low	658	660	635	670	580	667	650

All prices exclude carbon and energy surcharges.

Currency Exchange Rates				
	US dollars USD		Euros EUR	
	1-Sep	1-Oct	1-Sep	1-Oct
Eurozone EUR	0.855	0.853	-	-
UK GBP	0.738	0.742	0.864	0.870

MEPS Industrial Sector Steel Purchasing Price Index - Europe Average			
Jan 2007 = 100	Sep-25	Oct-25	% change
Construction Industry	107.2	105.3	-1.8
Household Appliances	87.5	87.8	0.3
Machinery Sector	97.9	97.5	-0.4
Shipbuilding Industry	84.6	84.6	0.0
Shipping Containers	99.5	99.4	-0.1
Yellow Goods	102.4	102.6	0.2

Transaction Price Index - Europe Average				
	Sep-25	Oct-25	% change	
Hot Rolled Coil	219.9	220.3	0.2	
Hot Rolled Plate	220.9	220.6	-0.1	
Cold Rolled Coil	183.5	184.1	0.3	
HD Galv Coil	161.0	161.4	0.2	
EZ Coated Coil	187.6	187.6	0.0	
Wire Rod (Drawing)	223.0	219.2	-1.7	
Wire Rod (Mesh)	243.0	237.6	-2.2	
Sections (I Beam)	242.0	239.1	-1.2	
Sections (H Beam)	218.6	215.8	-1.3	
Reinforcing Bar	255.5	245.4	-4.0	
Merc Bar (Round)	251.5	248.9	-1.0	
Merc Bar (Eq Angle)	257.8	255.0	-1.1	

Note: Based on low transaction values.

Negotiated Domestic Transaction Prices - Month on Month % Change								
		Europe Average	Germany	France	Italy	UK	UK	Spain
		EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	GBP	EUR	EUR
Hot Rolled Coil	Low	0.2	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	-0.7	1.8
Hot Rolled Plate	Low	-0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.7	0.0
Cold Rolled Coil	Low	0.3	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	-0.8	2.3
HD Galv Coil	Low	0.3	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	-0.6	1.4
EZ Coated Coil	Low	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.8	1.3
Wire Rod (Drawing)	Low	-1.7	-1.7	-1.7	-1.7	0.0	-0.7	-3.4
Wire Rod (Mesh)	Low	-2.3	-1.7	-1.7	-3.5	0.0	-0.7	-3.4
Sections (I Beam)	Low	-1.2	-1.4	-1.3	-1.3	0.0	-0.7	-1.4
Sections (H Beam)	Low	-1.3	-1.3	-1.3	-1.3	0.0	-0.8	-1.3
Reinforcing Bar	Low	-4.0	-1.6	-0.8	-7.3	0.0	-0.7	-1.6
Merc Bar (Round)	Low	-1.0	-1.5	-0.8	-1.5	0.0	-0.6	0.8
Merc Bar (Eq Angle)	Low	-1.1	-1.5	-0.8	-1.5	0.0	-0.6	0.8

MEPS European Steel Review - Price & Product Specifications

MEPS International's published price assessments relate to regular business, between buyers and steel mills, for newly produced, prime, commercial quality material, negotiated during the current month, for forward delivery. Transactions which involve abnormally large or small volumes, non-repeatable deals or sale of ex-stock material are omitted from consideration in the formulation of the published prices. Long-term contract prices are also excluded from the MEPS monthly assessments. Unless included as standard, at no additional cost to the buyer, all extras charged for processing, packaging, testing and certification are excluded from the published prices. The majority of MEPS International's price assessments refer to material sold ex-works, excluding local taxes. When delivery charges or local taxes are incorporated in a published figure, this is stated in the relevant specification.

Basis prices exclude extras for dimensions of the product – for example thickness, width and diameter. They also exclude extras for coating, when coating is traditionally charged at an additional cost. Transaction prices include applicable extra charges, such as those for thickness, width, diameter and coating. All prices exclude carbon and energy surcharges.

Hot Rolled Coil

Germany (Ruhr), France, Italy, Belgium, Spain

Ex works. Grade S235JR.

Basis - excludes size extras.

Transaction - Thickness 2-3mm, Width 1100-1549mm.

UK

Ex works. Grade S275JR.

Basis - excludes size extras.

Transaction - Thickness 2-3mm, Width 1100-1549mm.

Sections (I beam)

Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Spain

Delivered. Grade S235JR, S275JR.

Transaction - Category 1, Designation IPE 180-220.

UK

Delivered. Grade S275JR.

Transaction - Designation UB 203, UB 254.

Sections (H beam)

Germany, France, Italy, Spain

Delivered. Grade S235JR, S275JR.

Transaction - Category 3, Designation HEB 240.

UK

Delivered. Grade S275JR.

Transaction - Designation UC 254.

Rebar (deformed)

Germany, France, Belgium

Delivered. Grade B500B.

Basis - excludes size extras.

Transaction - Diameter 16-20mm.

Italy

Delivered. Grade B450C.

Basis - excludes size extras.

Transaction - Diameter 16-20mm.

UK

Delivered. Grade B500C.

Transaction - Diameter 16-20mm.

Spain

Delivered. Grade B500SD.

Basis - excludes size extras.

Transaction - Diameter 16-20mm.

Hot Rolled Plate

Germany (Ruhr), France, Italy, Belgium, Spain

Ex works. Grade S235JR.

Basis - excludes size extras.

Transaction - Thickness 15-40mm, Width 2000-2500mm.

UK

Ex works. Grade S275JR.

Basis - excludes size extras.

Transaction - Thickness 15-40mm, Width 2000-2500mm.

Cold Rolled Coil

Germany (Ruhr), France, Italy, UK, Belgium, Spain

Ex works. Grade DC01.

Basis - excludes size extras.

Transaction - Thickness 1.00-1.24mm, Width 1100-1549mm.

Hot Dipped Galvanised Coil

Germany (Ruhr), France, Italy, UK, Belgium, Spain

Ex works. Grade DX51D+Z.

Basis - excludes size extras, Coating Z100.

Transaction - Thickness 1.00-1.24mm, Width 1100-1299mm, Coating Z275.

Electro Zinc Coated Coil

Germany (Ruhr), France, Italy, UK, Belgium, Spain

Ex works. Grade DC01+ZE.

Basis - excludes size extras.

Transaction - Thickness 1.00-1.24mm, Width 1100-1299mm, Coating 2.5µm.

Wire Rod (low carbon drawing quality)

Germany, France, Italy, UK, Belgium, Spain

Delivered. Grade C4D, SAE1006.

Transaction - Diameter 5.5mm.

Wire Rod (low carbon mesh quality)

Germany, France, Italy, UK, Spain

Delivered. Grade SAE1008.

Transaction - Diameter 6-12mm.

Merchant Bar

Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Spain

Delivered. Grade S235JR, S275JR.

Basis - excludes size extras.

Transaction (round bar) - Diameter 16-50mm.

Transaction (equal angle) - Dimensions 50x50x5mm.

UK

Delivered. Grade S275JR.

Transaction (round bar) - Diameter 16-50mm.

Transaction (equal angle) - Dimensions 50x50x6mm.