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Committee on Safeguards

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**NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 12.1(C) OF THE AGREEMENT ON SAFEGUARDS UPON
TAKING A DECISION TO APPLY OR EXTEND A SAFEGUARD MEASURE**

EUROPEAN UNION

Certain ferro-alloying elements

Supplement

The following communication, dated and received on 19 November 2025, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the European Union.

On 19 December 2024, the European Commission ('the Commission') initiated a safeguard investigation, to determine if safeguard measures are necessary to provide temporary relief for the Union producers of silicon and manganese-based alloying elements.¹

The investigation was initiated with a scope of six alloying elements, namely (i) silicon, (ii) ferro-manganese, (iii) ferro-silicon, (iv) ferro-silico-manganese, (v) ferro-silico-magnesium and (vi) calcium-silicon.

On 12 November 2025, the European Union notified the WTO Committee on Safeguards under document numbers G/SG/N/8/EU/2 - G/SG/N/10/EU/2 - G/SG/N/11/EU/2. The submission sets out the EU's determination of serious injury, or the threat thereof, to its domestic industry, outlines the safeguard measures it proposes to implement in response to these findings, and specifies the circumstances under which certain trading partners may be exempted, consistent with relevant WTO provision.

1. Provide evidence, citing relevant data and the applicable period of investigation of serious injury or threat thereof caused by increased imports.

In order to determine as to whether there is evidence of serious injury to the Union producers of the product concerned, the Commission examined the trends of consumption, production, capacity utilisation, sales, market share, prices, profitability, stocks, return on capital employed (ROCE), cash flow and employment for the product concerned for the years 2019 to 2024. In order to obtain the most recent information for its further analysis and for the final determination, the Commission requested the Union producers to submit an updated supplementary questionnaire covering the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, the most recent period or 'MRP'.

¹ [G/SG/N/6/EU/2](#), 20 December 2024.

Table 1 – Union industry

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	MRP
Union consumption in tonnes	1 845 132	1 602 735	2 075 077	1 874 156	1 758 562	1 754 412	1 709 235
index 2019 = 100	100	87	112	102	95	95	93
Domestic sales in tonnes	702 190	584 478	701 694	549 366	343 835	422 825	412 889
index 2019 = 100	100	83	100	78	49	60	59
Domestic market share	38%	36%	34%	29%	20%	24%	24%
Production volume in tonnes	616 707	477 006	598 314	415 657	275 573	351 540	309 976
index 2019 = 100	100	77	97	67	45	57	50
Production capacity in tonnes	1 102 794	1 041 422	1 053 615	1 006 108	1 028 989	947 203	892 526
index 2019 = 100	100	94	96	91	93	86	81
Import prices CIF + MFN EUR/tonne	1 067	960	1 215	1 927	1 342	1 184	1 174
index 2019 = 100	100	90	114	181	126	111	110
Union producers sales price EUR/tonne	1 011	937	1 457	2 233	1 486	1 295	1 230
index 2019 = 100	100	93	144	221	147	128	122
Price difference	-6%	-3%	17%	14%	10%	9%	5%
Cost of domestic production EUR/tonne	1 112	1 043	1 354	2 145	1 633	1 449	1 482
index 2019 = 100	100	94	122	193	147	130	133
Profitability (% turnover)	-10%	-11%	7%	4%	-7%	-12%	-20%
Capacity utilisation	56%	46%	57%	41%	27%	37%	35%
Cash Flow (thousand EUR)	-21 616	8 100	40 278	94 206	27 558	-34 678	-37 255
Return on capital employed (%)	-1,60%	-1,10%	2,30%	5,00%	1,10%	0,00%	-0,30%
Stocks (tonnes)	69 373	47 198	55 861	37 349	47 175	45 120	40 149
index 2019 = 100	100	68	81	54	68	65	58
Employment	2 252	2 077	1 977	1 866	1 686	1 819	1 705
index 2019 = 100	100	92	88	83	75	81	76
Source: Industry data and questionnaire replies							

Union consumption fluctuated in the first half of the period concerned, it has since then been on a downward trend. Domestic sales of the Union producers decreased between 2019 and the MRP by 41%, resulting in a loss of 14% market share. Over the same period, imports increased by 13% in absolute terms. The market share of the Union industry declined markedly throughout the period concerned and only recovered slightly in 2024 when the Union industry was selling at a loss to compete with the increased imports at low prices. Production capacity decreased by 19% during the period 2019-MRP, and the Union production decreased by 50% during the same period. As a result, the capacity utilisation rate also decreased from 56% to 35%. Production recovered slightly in 2024 but was still much lower than in the previous years, with the exception of 2023. In the MRP the production declined again.

A significant increase in imports has led to sustained downward pressure on Union sales prices. This has resulted in a substantial price difference of up to 17% in 2021 and continuing during the period concerned, adversely affecting the profitability of the Union industry.

The Union producers were suffering 10% and 11% losses in 2019 and 2020, respectively. In the recovery year 2021 (after COVID-19), profits reached 7% but in 2022 decreased to 4%, followed by 7% losses in 2023 and 12% losses in 2024, when import prices were below the Union industry's costs of production. The trend deteriorated in the MRP when losses peaked at 20%.

During the period from 2019 to the MRP, the Union producers faced decreasing sales and incurred losses due to increased imports. Over the period concerned cash flow and return on capital employed

followed a similar trend, fluctuating significantly but returning to a negative value in the MRP. Stocks decreased in the period concerned.

During the period concerned, Union producers faced a significant setback, resulting in a 19% reduction in jobs. When compared to the MRP, this represents a 24% reduction relative to the base year 2019.

2. Provide information on whether there is an absolute increase in imports or an increase in imports relative to domestic production (please see also Article 2.1 for the context).

The Commission has carried out an analysis of the increase in imports of the product concerned over the period 2019-2024 (the period concerned). The Commission decided to start the period concerned in 2019 so that the findings are not tainted by possible market disturbances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The analysis led to a categorisation of the product concerned into three distinct groups, based on the primary raw material and their intended applications. A further detailed examination of import trends was conducted for each product group: (a) silicon, (b) ferro-alloys, and (c) calcium-silicon. The analysis revealed that imports of silicon have not increased, and calcium-silicon is no longer produced in the Union. As a result, these two groups were excluded from the further investigation.

Table 2 – Imports of silicon

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	MRP
Imports of Silicon in tonnes	335 415	326 218	365 278	381 499	336 808	334 861	326 372
index 2019 = 100	100	97	109	114	100	100	97
Source: EUROSTAT							

Table 3 - Import volume and prices, production, consumption and imports relative to production and consumption

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	MRP
Imports of Ferro-alloys in tonnes	1 142 942	1 018 257	1 373 383	1 324 790	1 414 728	1 331 588	1 296 347
index 2019 = 100	100	89	120	116	124	117	113
Import prices CIF + MFN EUR/tonne	1 067	960	1 215	1 927	1 342	1 184	1 174
index 2019 = 100	100	90	114	181	126	111	110
Production in tonnes	616 707	477 006	598 314	415 657	275 573	351 540	309 976
index 2019 = 100	100	77	97	67	45	57	50
Imports over production (ratio)	1,85	2,13	2,3	3,19	5,13	3,79	4,18
index 2019 = 100	100	115	124	172	277	204	226
Consumption in tonnes	1 845 132	1 602 735	2 075 077	1 874 156	1 758 562	1 754 412	1 709 235
index 2019 = 100	100	87	112	102	95	95	93
Imports over consumption (ratio)	0,62	0,64	0,66	0,71	0,8	0,76	0,76
index 2019 = 100	100	103	107	114	130	123	122
Source: EUROSTAT, Industry data and questionnaire replies							

The investigation confirmed that imports of ferro-alloys into the Union have increased during the period concerned. Specifically, total imports of the product concerned increased in absolute terms by 17% over the period 2019-2024 with some fluctuation between the various years. When comparing to the MRP, the imports increased by 13% since 2019. In addition, imports increased significantly in relation to the Union production, rising by 104% between 2019 and 2024 and by 126% when compared to the MRP. Imports also increased in relation to the Union consumption rising by 23% between 2019 and 2024 and by 22% when compared to the MRP.

3. Provide the precise description of the product involved

Certain ferro-alloying elements

The product concerned is certain ferro-alloying elements falling under the CN codes 7202 11; 7202 19; 7202 21; 7202 29; 7202 30; 7202 99 30. Those CN codes are given for information purposes only.

HS code(s): 72 02 11 20, 72 02 11 80, 72 02 19 00, 72 02 21 00, 72 02 29 10, 72 02 29 90, 72 02 99 30, 72 02 30

4. If the final measure replaces a provisional measure, or if a final measure is extended, a Member is encouraged to provide a written description of any part of the imported product that will no longer be subject to the measure and the Harmonized System numbers under which it enters at least at a 6-digit level, and at a sub-national level (e.g., 8-digit, 9-digit or 10-digit level) if practicable.

5. Provide precise description of the proposed measure

Tariff Rate Quota, Tariff Increase (see observations)

The safeguard measures shall be in the form of specific TRQ per product type allowing a certain volume of imports to enter free of duty and a tariff increase for imports exceeding the quota volumes.

The out of quota duty is a variable duty in the form of a tariff increase by reference to the difference between the established price threshold and the actual import price. If imports are made at the level of the price threshold or above no additional duty would be payable. However, if imports are made at a price below the established threshold, the duty should be equal to the difference between the net free-at-Union-frontier price and the established price threshold per product type. The price threshold is established by reference to a non-injurious price for ferro-alloy imports. Following a detailed investigation, which included a comprehensive injury analysis, causation analysis, and an assessment of Union interests, the Commission determined the non-injurious price level by evaluating current sales price levels for each product type. The Commission took as a basis the cost of domestic sales to unrelated customers per product type and added to it compliance costs, investments and a target profit.

Based on Union interest considerations and in order to ensuring optimal use of the tariff quota volumes, the Commission considered that they should be allocated to all origins with specific quotas for countries having a substantial interest.

It is considered that countries with a share of more than 5% of imports over the last 3 years for the product type concerned have a significant supplying interest. A residual TRQ ('the residual quota') based on the average of the remaining imports over the last three years should be allocated to all other supplying countries. The residual quota should be filled based on the chronological order of the dates on which declarations of release for free circulation are accepted, as provided for in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2447².

The eligibility of imported goods from developing countries to be excluded from the tariff quotas is dependent on the origin of the goods. The criteria for determining non-preferential origin currently in force in the Union should therefore be applied.

² Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2447 of 24 November 2015 laying down detailed rules for implementing certain provisions of Regulation (EU) No 952/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the Union Customs Code (OJ L 343, 29.12.2015, p. 558), ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2015/2447/oj Volumes of tariff-rate quotas.

Product Type	HS and CN Codes	Allocation by country (Where Applicable)	Year 1			
			From 18.11.2025 to 17.02.2026	From 18.02.2026 to 17.05.2026	From 18.05.2026 to 17.08.2026	From 18.08.2026 to 17.11.2026
			Volume of tariff quota (net tonnes)			
Ferro-Manganese	7202 11, 7202 19	Norway	28972,70	28027,93	28972,70	28972,70
		India	17625,79	17051,04	17625,79	17625,79
		South Africa	8272,87	8003,10	8272,87	8272,87
		Malaysia	6765,92	6545,29	6765,92	6765,92
		Korea, Republic of	4832,82	4675,23	4832,82	4832,82
		Other countries	5557,54	5376,31	5557,54	5557,54
Ferro-Silicon	7202 21, 7202 29	Norway	35136,16	33990,41	35136,16	35136,16
		Iceland	13373,32	12937,24	13373,32	13373,32
		Kazakhstan	8090,25	7826,44	8090,25	8090,25
		Brazil	6316,02	6110,06	6316,02	6316,02
		Other countries	24984,27	24169,56	24984,27	24984,27
Ferro-Silico-Magnesium	7202 99 30	China	468,90	453,61	468,90	468,90
		Brazil	99,81	96,55	99,81	99,81
		India	78,90	76,33	78,90	78,90
		Thailand	76,83	74,32	76,83	76,83
		Other countries	18,89	18,28	18,89	18,89
Ferro-Silico-Manganese	7202 30	Norway	37067,71	35858,98	37067,71	37067,71
		India	31958,61	30916,48	31958,61	31958,61
		Zambia	7882,49	7625,45	7882,49	7882,49
		Other countries	18955,56	18337,44	18955,56	18955,56

Product Type	HS and CN Codes	Allocation by country (Where Applicable)	Year 2			
			From 18.11.2026 to 17.02.2027	From 18.02.2027 to 17.05.2027	From 18.05.2027 to 17.08.2027	From 18.08.2027 to 17.11.2027
			Volume of tariff quota (net tonnes)			
Ferro-Manganese	7202 11, 7202 19	Norway	29001,67	28055,96	29001,67	29001,67
		India	17643,42	17068,09	17643,42	17643,42
		South Africa	8281,14	8011,10	8281,14	8281,14
		Malaysia	6772,68	6551,83	6772,68	6772,68
		Korea, Republic of	4837,65	4679,90	4837,65	4837,65
		Other countries	5563,09	5381,69	5563,09	5563,09
Ferro-Silicon	7202 21, 7202 29	Norway	35171,30	34024,41	35171,30	35171,30
		Iceland	13386,70	12950,18	13386,70	13386,70
		Kazakhstan	8098,34	7834,27	8098,34	8098,34
		Brazil	6322,34	6116,17	6322,34	6322,34
		Other countries	25009,25	24193,73	25009,25	25009,25
Ferro-Silico-Magnesium	7202 99 30	China	469,37	454,07	469,37	469,37
		Brazil	99,91	96,65	99,91	99,91
		India	78,98	76,40	78,98	78,98
		Thailand	76,91	74,40	76,91	76,91
		Other countries	18,91	18,30	18,91	18,91
Ferro-Silico-Manganese	7202 30	Norway	37104,78	35894,84	37104,78	37104,78
		India	31990,57	30947,40	31990,57	31990,57
		Zambia	7890,37	7633,08	7890,37	7890,37
		Other countries	18974,51	18355,78	18974,51	18974,51

Product Type	HS and CN Codes	Allocation by country (Where Applicable)	Year 3			
			From 18.11.2027 to 17.02.2028	From 18.02.2028 to 17.05.2028	From 18.05.2028 to 17.08.2028	From 18.08.2028 to 17.11.2028
			Volume of tariff quota (net tonnes)			
Ferro-Manganese	7202 11, 7202 19	Norway	28951,35	28321,98	28951,35	28951,35
		India	17612,81	17229,92	17612,81	17612,81
		South Africa	8266,77	8087,06	8266,77	8266,77
		Malaysia	6760,93	6613,95	6760,93	6760,93
		Korea, Republic of	4829,26	4724,28	4829,26	4829,26
		Other countries	5553,44	5432,71	5553,44	5553,44
Ferro-Silicon	7202 21, 7202 29	Norway	35110,27	34347,01	35110,27	35110,27
		Iceland	13363,47	13072,96	13363,47	13363,47
		Kazakhstan	8084,29	7908,55	8084,29	8084,29
		Brazil	6311,37	6174,16	6311,37	6311,37
		Other countries	24965,86	24423,13	24965,86	24965,86
Ferro-Silico-Magnesium	7202 99 30	China	468,56	458,37	468,56	468,56
		Brazil	99,73	97,56	99,73	99,73
		India	78,84	77,13	78,84	78,84
		Thailand	76,77	75,10	76,77	76,77
		Other countries	18,88	18,47	18,88	18,88
Ferro-Silico-Manganese	7202 30	Norway	37040,40	36235,18	37040,40	37040,40
		India	31935,07	31240,83	31935,07	31935,07
		Zambia	7876,68	7705,45	7876,68	7876,68
		Other countries	18941,59	18529,82	18941,59	18941,59

Price threshold applicable for the tariff increase

Product Number	Product type	HS / CN Codes	Price threshold (€/tonne)
1	Ferro-manganese	7202 11, 7202 19	1 316
2	Ferro-silicon	7202 21, 7202 29	2 408
3	Ferro-silico-manganese	7202 30	1 392
4	Ferro-silico-magnesium	7202 99 30	3 647

6. Provide proposed date of introduction of the measure

18 November 2025

7. Provide expected duration of the measure.

17 November 2028.

The safeguard measure shall be in place for a period of three years, expiring on 17 November 2028.

8. If the expected duration is over one year, provide expected timetable for progressive liberalization of the measure.

The Commission considers that the most appropriate way to liberalise the measure is to increase the level of the free of duty quota by 0,1% after each year. The first liberalisation will take place on 18 November 2026, with the second liberalisation taking place on 18 November 2027.

9. Members are encouraged to provide the following information

(i) The major exporting Members of imports of the product involved:

Brazil; China; Iceland; India; Kazakhstan; Korea, Republic of; Malaysia; Norway; South Africa; Thailand; Zambia.

The European Union hereby informs WTO Members of the measure that has been adopted and published. The full text of the measure is available at the following link:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/2351/oj
