

EU Safeguard, Euranimi calls for 'transparent and predictable' rules

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With less than a year to go before the current EU steel **safeguard measures** expire in June 2026, **the European Association of Non-Integrated Metal Importers and Distributors (Euranimi)** has submitted a document to the European Commission calling for a new transparent and predictable structure. In particular, the association wants **rules that "protect competitiveness, ensure certainty of application and avoid repeating past mistakes in trade policy matters"**.

According to Euranimi, the Union 'needs a strong European stainless steel industry and an open and competitive market,' it says in a LinkedIn post. Therefore, it is central for EU companies to 'need regulatory certainty imposed by Europe', as 'trade defence measures have lasting consequences', to address 'global overcapacity'.

As stated in the document published by the European association of non-integrated metal importers and distributors itself, the forthcoming legislation will have to meet some basic requirements, namely: **predictability and uniformity, closing current loopholes, reviewing rules of origin and avoiding the introduction of new protection rules for stainless steel**. Therefore, Euranimi insists that any regulatory change should be uniform across all 27 EU member states. This is to enable all companies to be faced with a clear regulatory framework at the time of purchase, supported by a sufficient adaptation period before final implementation. The Association also calls for the elimination of all possible loopholes and exceptions, such as the exemption for slabs, which could undermine the effectiveness of the new protection measures. Euranimi also firmly opposes the 'melt and pour' requirements in the document, calling them 'unverifiable, potentially susceptible to fraud and incompatible with the principles of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)'.

Alongside all this, **the Association also emphasises how stainless steel is 'already well protected'**. Stainless steel thus represents only 3% of EU consumption, but 'is covered by 10 different trade protection measures. With the entry into force of the Cbam in January 2026, imports of these carbon-intensive materials will experience increases of hundreds of euros per tonne and, as a result, companies will face an additional barrier to trade'. In this sense, 'further safeguard measures on stainless steel would be premature and risk creating new distortions,' the Association warns. However, **should the introduction of barriers be unavoidable**, Euranimi advocates a **uniform fixed tariff** as an alternative to an Ets quota system that 'has proven to be an unpredictable, distorting and discriminatory system in practice'.

For these reasons, future safeguard measures should be 'proportionate, product-specific and evidence-based. This is because overly restrictive measures would harm downstream companies that depend on affordable steel products'.

In its conclusions, Euranimi urges the EU Commission to **avoid "the mistakes of the past"** and emphasises the need for "predictable, proportionate and competitive" legislation that strengthens "European industrial resilience without imposing unnecessary distortions on the entire steel supply chain".

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