

**Question for written answer E-000991/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: The worrying situation in the EU stainless steel sector

EU manufacturers of stainless steel cold-rolled flat products are having to cope with aggressive dumping practices by China and Taiwan (EUR 758 million in 2013 according to Eurostat) whose market share has increased by 50 % in 2014 compared to 2013.

This trend obviously causes them great concern, particularly in regard to employment. In Belgium alone, manufacture of these goods accounts for 5 000 jobs, directly and indirectly, most notably at Aperam in Châtelet and Genk.

The European steel association Eurofer lodged an anti-dumping complaint with the Commission in May 2014. An investigation was subsequently opened, against the backdrop of a prolonged crisis in the steel sector in Europe whose adverse effects on our societies are unfortunately only too well known.

1. Without prejudicing the future outcome of the investigation, what initiatives is the Commission planning to take to support the EU's stainless steel sector?
2. Does it envisage relaunching the High-level Expert Group on Steel – which would be welcomed – in order to look at the difficulties experienced by the EU stainless steel sector in particular and to consider more broadly initiatives that would benefit the EU iron and steel industry, such as those suggested by Parliament's resolution of 17 December 2014?