

**Question for written answer E-001599/2016  
to the Council**

Rule 130

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Subject: Crisis in the steel industry

The steel industry held a demonstration in Brussels last week to protest against the serious crisis that the sector is facing in the European Union, even though the EU is the world's second largest steel producer.

Securing the steel industry's viability in Europe must be a political priority for the European institutions and the Member States, and only political pressure at the highest level will be capable of pushing through urgent and practical European Union action against the dumping practices committed by China, which are endangering thousands of jobs across Europe.

1. Is the Council aware of the need to amend the trade defence instrument to prevent proceedings from lasting so long as to make it useless in practice?
2. Does the Council have the necessary political will and unity to adopt measures to defend the industry?
3. Is the Council planning to include an item concerning steps to take to combat the steel crisis at both the forthcoming Competitiveness Council at the end of February and the Spring European Council?