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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(19.12.2025)

The Commission remains fully committed to ensuring a level playing field for the EU ferroalloy sector within the framework of EU trade defence instruments. Accordingly, the Commission imposed a definitive safeguard measure following an investigation that established that increased imports of certain alloys were causing serious injury to EU producers. The measure entered into force on 18 November 2025 and will remain applicable for a period of three years.

Safeguard measures apply *erga omnes*, and no country contributing to the injury can be excluded. Furthermore, the Agreement on the European Economic Area¹ does not preclude the imposition of safeguard measures among contracting parties, if serious economic, societal or environmental difficulties of a sectorial or regional nature liable to persist are arising. Given the significant and increasing import volumes from Iceland and Norway, accounting for 47.4% of total EU imports, and their prices being below EU production costs, the Commission considers that imports from Iceland and Norway cause serious economic difficulties of a sectorial nature. Thus, they cannot be considered non-injurious and therefore cannot be exempted.

The Commission is monitoring trade flows to ensure that existing sanctions on aluminium, steel, and iron imports from Russia remain fully effective and are not undermined through circumvention. In this context, any decision to extend sanctions to additional products, including ferroalloys is for the Council to take. Any proposal will be based on a thorough evaluation of evidence, consultation with Member States, and alignment with the EU's broader strategic and economic interests.

¹ http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/1994/1/oj.