

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1161/04
by Mario Mauro (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Foundry sector: shortages of raw materials

Europe is undergoing a serious steel and foundry crisis, which, by extension, affects all major steel users, from construction firms to the automobile and electric appliance industries.

This crisis has two causes: China's decision to reduce coke exports, with serious repercussions in Europe, and a rise in scrap prices due to a shortage of material and as a result of speculation.

The shortage of raw materials, coke and scrap is a stark reminder of the need for Europe to be in a position to produce its own coke that can be used in steel production, rather than having to rely on imports from producer countries that provide such materials only after meeting their own needs.

The difficulty of finding scrap in turn makes it more difficult to continue to supply electric steel furnaces, making them less sustainable.

Can the Commission indicate what measures it intends to take to increase the 'circulation' of raw materials on the market?