

Question for written answer E-002476/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: US customs duties on steel and aluminium

At the beginning of March, President Donald Trump announced that his administration intended to introduce customs duties on imports of steel and aluminium, a decision that could well lead to a trade war between the US and Europe. The US is planning to impose a 25% duty on steel and a 10% duty on aluminium on the grounds that cheap imports are undermining American industries and jobs.

With annual European steel and aluminium exports to the other side of the Atlantic totalling around EUR 5 billion and EUR 1 billion respectively, the Commission has calculated that the proposed duties could cost Europe around EUR 2.8 billion.

Furthermore, Romania, whose metallurgical exports to the US amount to around EUR 160 million, is among the nine European countries most heavily affected by this decision. The duties will undermine not only the economies of European countries but also the employment situation.

What other measures are being envisaged by the Commission to offset any financial losses incurred, aside from the imposition of duties on certain US products that has already been announced?