

Question for written answer E-002904/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Mihai Țurcanu (PPE)

Subject: US customs duties on steel and aluminium

In early March 2018, the US President Donald Trump announced that his administration would introduce customs duties on imports of steel and aluminium. That decision could well lead to a trade war between the US and Europe. The US is 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.

Romania is one of the nine European countries severely affected by this decision. Romanian exports of metal products to the US market are worth approximately EUR 160 million. The imposition of duties will undermine not only the economies of the European countries concerned, but also the employment situation.

What measures over and above those already announced in respect of certain US products is the Commission considering in order to offset any financial losses incurred?