

Question for written answer E-003376/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Call for scrap steel to be officially recognised as a raw material in exports to non-EU countries

Exports by some EU Member States to countries such as Turkey of ferrous scrap metal derived from steel manufacturing is creating profound and unfair imbalances within the EU. In particular, and according to figures from Turkey's official statistics body Turkstat, countries such as Germany and the Netherlands rank among the top exporters of scrap metal to Turkey in 2019.

The directives governing the nature of ferrous scrap metal do not consider it to be a raw material, meaning it is not eligible for application of the safeguard clause commonly used for exports of raw materials. Exporting ferrous scrap metal deprives the EU of raw materials which are then reprocessed in Turkey, where high levels of state aid make manufacturing easier than in the EU countries. Furthermore, as Turkey is not subjected to environmental controls on carbon dioxide emissions, particulates and fume capture rules, production costs for its goods are lower, creating unfair competition on the internal market of EU countries such as Italy.

In view of this:

1. In the Commission's view, could ferrous scrap metal be considered a raw material in the steel production process and as such, become eligible for application of the safeguard clause?
2. Will the Commission impose the same environmental protection requirements on products imported from non-EU countries?