

Question for written answer E-003377/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Elena Lizzi (ID)

Subject: Request for an end to the sale by some EU countries of scrap steel to Turkey

According to data provided by Turkstat concerning Turkish imports of scrap steel, out of 20 global exporting countries, 14 are EU Member States. In particular, according to data provided by that Turkish agency, EU (28) accounted for 60.5% of the total scrap exports in 2018, with an increase of almost 64% in the period January-August 2019.

The EU countries that export most to Turkey are, in order of importance: the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, Romania and France. In particular, Germany has become the fourth largest exporter of scrap steel in 2019 after occupying eighth place in 2018. The other European countries, including Italy, producing less steel, are obliged to import it from other countries, including Turkey, whose production is subjected to fewer environmental requirements and obligations and receives more state aid.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. In the light of Turkey's military intervention in Syria, does it believe that EU exporting countries could block the sale of steel to Turkey, as a measure aimed at discouraging Turkish belligerence?
2. Does it consider it permissible that some EU Member States should face unfair competition in their own market, created, albeit indirectly, by other Member States?