

**Question for written answer E-004191/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Rosanna Conte (ID)

Subject: Steel shortage and restrictions on imports

As a result of the restrictions on steel imports¹ introduced by the Commission in July 2018, Italian manufacturers have faced shortages in the supply of that raw material, which has impinged on their ability to keep up with demand.

This state of affairs was compounded by the COVID-19 outbreak and, paradoxically, also as the economy began to recover, when demand rose sharply and greater instability led to higher prices, among other issues.

The Commission has now decided to extend these restrictions despite the fact that market sources indicate that tonnes of steel are stuck at the ports of Venice and Ravenna because they cannot be cleared by customs due to these very quotas.

In view of this:

Does the Commission realise that in October, when the quotas will be reviewed, the EU thresholds will likely be reached in no time, causing yet another standstill with a knock-on effect in the months thereafter?

Does it intend to re-examine the criteria for safeguard quotas, which have caused a glaring imbalance and could hamper economic recovery by continuing to make prices rise?

¹ 'safeguard quotas'