Steel Measures – Review of the inclusion of wires of other alloyed steel

Position paper of the European industry

September 2026

On 24 June 2026, the European Union adopted Regulation 2026/1384 addressing the negative trade-related effects of global overcapacity on the Union steel market ("Steel Measures").[1] Pursuant to Article 12 of that regulation, the European Commission initiated a review in July 2026 of the potential inclusion of wires of other alloyed steel of Combined Nomenclature heading 7229 ("alloyed wires") within the scope of products covered by the Steel Measures.

The EU wire industry welcomes this step, which is essential to ensure its own protection as well as the effectiveness of the new instrument.

EU imports of alloyed wires have increased by nearly 270% from 87,000 MT to 319,000 MT since 2013 (the base year used by Regulation 2026/1384). In the meantime, the EU industry's sales dropped from 579,000 MT in 2013 (and temporarily over 800,000 MT in 2017) to 480,000 MT in 2025. This corresponds to a loss in market share of the EU industry of 27% over the same period. The situation for the EU industry has worsened, especially over the last four years. The EU industry has lost customers and sales volumes to floods of low-priced imports. As a result, to protect their businesses, EU producers are forced to take painful cost-saving and restructuring measures, including idling capacities and introducing redundancies, which are however not sustainable in the long-term. Several EU producers are also heavily loss-making.

As with the steel industry in general, global overcapacities are also a massive problem in the alloyed wire sector. In the current difficult global economic situation, the overcapacities in many third countries flood onto the EU market, because domestic demand in other countries is weak and/or because producers in other countries are themselves being displaced by aggressive imports from third countries with enormous overcapacities, such as China.

Several countries have already imposed trade restrictions on the imports of alloyed wires. Canada, Mexico, Japan, Vietnam, and Colombia have imposed anti-dumping measures on various forms of alloyed wires.[2] In addition, some of the major steel producing economies have introduced additional measures, alongside traditional trade defence instruments (TDIs), to protect their markets from the influx of excess capacities. The U.S. apply 50% *ad valorem* tariffs to all imports under U.S. tariff heading 7229. Canada also has tariff quotas and applies duties of 50% to out of quota volumes. In China,

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[1] Regulation (EU) 2026/1384 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2026 addressing the negative trade-related effects of global overcapacity on the Union steel market and amending Regulation (EU) 2020/2170, OJ L2026/1384.

[2] Brazil has import tariffs on imports classified under tariff heading 7229.20.00. Mexico has anti-dumping duties in place on imports of silico-manganese welding wire (customs subheading 7229 20) from China. Vietnam has anti-dumping duties in place on imports of silico-manganese welding wire from China, Thailand and Malaysia. Canada imposed anti-dumping duties on imports of wires of tariff heading 7217 and 7229 on imports from China, India, Italy, Malaysia, Portugal, Taiwan, Thailand, Türkiye, Vietnam, Türkiye and Taiwan. Japan imposed anti-dumping duties on imports from China of hot-dipped galvanised steel wire classified under *inter alia* customs headings 7217 and 7229. Most recently, Colombia imposed provisional anti-dumping duties on imports from China of annealed and galvanised steel wire classified under customs codes 7217 10, 7229 90.

government policies distort the domestic economy in favour of Chinese producers, and make it essentially impossible for EU and other Western alloyed wire producers to export to and compete on the Chinese market.

The European Union has most recently acknowledged the injury caused to the EU alloyed wire industry by unfairly traded imports by imposing provisional anti-dumping measures on imports of silico-manganese welding wires from China.[3] However, these measures, if imposed definitively, cover only a specific subgroup of alloyed wires and address only the unfair dumping practices of Chinese exporting producers.

Indeed, traditional TDIs[4] are not designed and not sufficient to tackle the distortions caused on the EU market by global overcapacities.[5] Only the new Steel Measures are specifically designed to address these distortions. Considering the different foci of TDIs and the Steel Measures, their parallel application is not only conceivable, it is required and mandated in the context of alloyed wires.

The inclusion within the scope of the Steel Measures of the EU alloyed wire industry as a whole is indeed essential to reestablish a level playing field on the EU market with fair conditions of competition.

In addition, such an inclusion is necessary to ensure the proper functioning of the Steel Measures for certain products already within its scope.

In this regard, wire rod (non-alloyed and alloyed) and non-alloyed steel wires are already covered by the Steel Measures. As long as alloyed wires are not also covered, exporters in third countries are able to undermine the Steel Measures in at least two simple ways: (i) they can replace exports of alloyed wire rod with exports of downstream alloyed wires; and (ii) producers of non-alloyed wires can add trace elements of boron in order to be able to (re)classify their non-alloyed wires as alloyed wires, in application of Note 1f of Chapter 72 of the Combined Nomenclature.

These possibilities are not mere speculation. These circumvention activities have already been happening, in particular when the Commission imposed anti-dumping duties on imports of wire rod from China, and when it made the non-alloyed wires subject to the safeguard measures in 2019. Those activities have continued until today. The protective effect of the Steel Measures for the upstream steel industry would be heavily undermined if these circumvention practices were allowed to continue and to push us, the EU alloyed wire industry, out of the market. In those circumstances, upstream steel producers would lose an important part of their EU customer base.

The inclusion of alloyed wires is therefore not only in our interest, but moreover to the overall benefit of the EU steel value chain and critical for ensuring the proper functioning of the Steel Measures.

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3 Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/1929 of 7 August 2026 imposing a provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of certain wires of silico-manganese steel originating in the People's Republic of China, OJ 2026/1929.

4 Anti-dumping or anti-subsidy duties, and safeguard measures.

5 Safeguards are intended to address significant but temporary increases in imports as a whole, while anti-dumping and anti-subsidy measures are designed to remedy the unfair trade practices of exporting producers in specific third countries. While overcapacities may play a role in specific Commission decisions to impose one or more of these TDIs, these instruments are not designed to protect the EU industry from the effects of global overcapacities. Therefore, for example, anti-dumping or anti-subsidy measures can be a (necessary) complement to, but not a replacement for, an inclusion of alloyed wires within the scope of the Steel Measures (and vice versa).

In light of the above we, the EU producers of alloyed wires, ask for your support in requesting the Commission to propose the inclusion of our products within the scope of the Steel Measures by 31 December 2026.

For further information please contact Maria Nillsson of EWA (contact@european-welding.org), Sophie Fatoba of CET (sophie.fatoba@issb.co.uk), Vanessa Bonilla of EUNIRPA (contact@eunirpa.eu), Daniela Floro (floro@federacciai.it), Mario Bertling of SEV (Mario.Bertling@drahtverband.org), or Laurent Ruessmann (Laurent.Ruessmann@rblegal.eu) and Jochen Beck (Jochen.Beck@rblegal.eu) of Ruessmann Beck & Co.

We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[the undesigned companies]

Signatories

EU wire producers		
Bekaert	Celsa Global Special Steel Products	Celsa Wire
elbor Welding Wires Made in Italy	Elektroda Zagreb	ESAB®
FLIESS since 1915	INE	ITALFIL® S.P.A. *Subject to direction and coordination of "Voestalpine Böhler Welding Group GmbH"*
KÜNNE Group	Lincoln® Electric	motomig
Multimet® Welding engineering	NEW SPOOL® The original BS spools	NOVOFIL Welding Wire
saarstahl We are Pure Steel+	SALDOTECNICA® Welding Application Engineering	SENTINEL STATUS LDA.
SIAT Pittarc Division	Sidergas	steelgroupitaly® FAR ITA
TECNOFIL	VAN MERKSTEIJN FENCES	WDI

Association		
CET Comité Européen de la Tréfilerie	EUNIRPA	EWA European Welding Association
ESV Eisendraht- und Stahldraht-Vereinigung e.V.	Federacciai	SEV Schweisselektroden-Vereinigung e.V.