

Bernd Lange MEP

Chair of the International Trade Committee

European Parliament

16 October 2025

Dear Bernd Lange,

European Commission Steel proposals

Global overcapacity in the steel sector and the dumping of cheap steel imports is a common existential crisis for the steel sector in both the EU and the UK.

As the Committee responsible for Economy and Trade in the Welsh Parliament, we know all too well the devastating impacts of these issues on our steel making communities and industry. Impacts that we know are similarly felt across many countries and regions in the European Union.

The UK and the EU are important trading partners in steel. Around 80% of Welsh steel exported to the EU annually, and EU steel makes up 50-60% of our steel imports. Our manufacturing industries such as defence, automotive and renewable energy production that rely on the steel sector are closely intertwined and we share an ambition to ensure that our domestic industries thrive in order to support infrastructure transformation and the green transition.

It is understandable that in the context of the global steel market and the adoption of increasingly protectionist trade policies by many, that the Member States of the EU would seek to protect its market from cheap imports. Just as we hope the UK Government will do when it renews its steel safeguard measures next year.

However, we believe that the introduction of these new proposals by the European Commission without further derogations or exemptions for the UK would have a significantly detrimental impact on industry in both the UK and the EU. The Committee has heard that the implementation of the proposals as presented by the European Commission without change would pose an 'existential'



threat to our steel making communities in Wales who have already suffered deeply from closures and job losses.

As allies in the promotion of fair and free trade we believe that there is scope for a mutually beneficial agreement between the UK and EU which would support and protect both our industries without recourse to harmful reciprocal measures. We note and welcome the agreement reached in May of this year to restore the UK's country-specific steel quota to the EU to historic levels and the commitment to reflect this in a post-2026 regime.

As your Committee and the European Parliament considers these proposals and the broader UK-EU trading relationship in the coming months we hope that you will give consideration and support to any measures designed to continue tariff-free trade between us and preserve the effort and progress made by both parties since the UK's withdrawal from the EU to this shared end.

We would be happy to engage further with you on this issue and to facilitate the provision of any further information that would be of assistance to you in your work.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew RT Davies". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Andrew RT Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

Copy to: Manon Aubry MEP

Iuliu Winkler MEP

Kathleen Van Brempt MEP

Karin Karlsbro MEP