

**Question for written answer E-002352/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Jonás Fernández (S&D)

Subject: Immediate application of sanctions banning imports of Russian steel slabs into the EU

The 12th package of sanctions against Russia adopted by the Council on 18 December 2023 stipulated that Russian steel imports into Europe would be banned from October 2024. The Council decision also established a four-year moratorium on the application of sanctions on products such as steel slabs, providing for a gradual reduction of the amount of imports allowed, to continue until 30 September 2028.

The import of Russian slabs has adverse effects on the European steel market, affecting the price and profitability of European plants and, as a result, poses a risk to their workers' job stability. It is therefore essential that the sanctions contained in the package be applied immediately. In that connection:

1. Articles 49 and 54 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2447 grant the Commission the competence to manage the tariff quota system. Is the Commission considering lifting the moratorium and applying sanctions immediately?
2. What were the criteria for introducing the quota system in force?
3. Has the Commission calculated what the effects of this moratorium might be on employment in the European steel industry as a whole?

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