

Europe's tariff-free steel quota falls **47%** on 1 July. The duty above it doubles to **50%**.

Türkiye is the EU's biggest source of finished-steel imports.

INSTRUMENT ONE · TRADE DEFENCE

The safeguard that replaces the safeguard.

TARIFF-FREE QUOTA

-47%

cut to 18.3M tonnes a year, from 2024 levels

OVER-QUOTA DUTY

50%

up from 25% – and it also hits steel outside the quota

IN FORCE

1 Jul

2026, as the 2018 safeguard expires 30 June

WHERE IT LANDS

The cut falls hardest on the biggest supplier.

#1

Türkiye was the EU's largest source of finished-steel imports in 2025 — 16.5% of the total. It shipped 7.9 million tonnes to the EU, 40.7% of its steel exports.

INSTRUMENT TWO · CARBON

CBAM prices the steel itself, not the volume.

CBAM CERTIFICATE

€75.36

per tonne of CO₂, Q1 2026; tracks the EU carbon price

PHASE-IN, 2026

2.5%

the share of the carbon gap charged this year

BY 2034

100%

full rate – the cost rises every year until then

WHY THEY DON'T CANCEL

Volume and carbon are taxed separately.

1 The safeguard **counts tonnes**. It caps how much enters tariff-free and charges 50% on the rest.

2 CBAM **counts carbon**. It prices the emissions embedded in the steel — whatever the volume.

3 They **stack**. And the safeguard's new **melt-and-pour origin tracing** — phased in from October — narrows the re-route over time.

STRATEGIC BOTTOM LINE

Access to Europe now carries two prices — one on the tonnage, one on the carbon.

Each has its own answer; neither answers the other.

For mills serving the EU, verified low-carbon production is the reply to CBAM, while documented origin and quota positioning are the reply to the safeguard. For EU buyers, supplier qualification now turns on both — and the clock runs to 1 July.

WHAT TO WATCH NEXT

Three dates between here and October.

A 1 July 2026 — the new regime starts: the 18.3M-tonne quota and 50% over-quota duty take effect.

B 1 October 2026 — importers must evidence the country of melt and pour; the origin data the quota system will lean on.

C The six-month review — the Commission reassesses which products the quota covers, and can widen its scope.

Origin documentation and a verified emissions figure are no longer compliance housekeeping — they decide market access.

SOURCES

For the record.

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Council of the EU, *New rules to protect the EU steel industry from global overcapacity* — 13 April 2026.

European Commission — *Steel and Metals Action Plan*; CBAM Regulation (EU) 2023/956 and Q1-2026 CBAM certificate price.

EUROFER — *Economic and Steel Market Outlook, Q1 2026*; Türkiye 16.5% of EU finished-steel imports, 2025.

Çelik İhracatçıları Birliği (Turkish Steel Exporters' Association) — *Türkiye steel-export statistics*, 7.9 Mt to EU / 40.7%, 2025.