

# EU trade policy under pressure: The example of steel

Monday, 16 November 2020 | 14:30 – 15:45 CET  
Online

The EU is at a crossroads, having suffered a sharp economic and social hit in recent months. The European Commission predicts a drop in EU GDP of 7.5 per cent in 2020. However, even in 2019, there were signs of underlying frailty in the EU economy.

Despite this, the EU has ambitious plans for its future, aiming to go green, digital and high-tech. But the global challenges remain the same: third countries taking advantage of the EU's open borders and markets whilst refusing to share the same high ambition to decarbonise by 2050. EU trade policy is thus under pressure. It must evolve to meet rising competition abroad, while giving the space for EU companies to survive, thrive and go green.

This recession will have severe effects on global supply chains, especially if countries around the world seek to dump products on world markets to make up for a loss of local demand.

Three trends look set to be reinforced by the global economic and health crisis:

1. Trade friction and distortions of the global marketplace are rising more strongly than ever. Is this a permanent change?
2. Europe now has ambitious plans for its future recovery and its climate policy. But if these goals are at odds with the global economic and trade reality, how can they be reconciled?
3. Marginalisation of multilateral (trade) action: will global trade become nationalised, with more and more countries turning inwards and imposing protectionist measures? How can international organisations stay relevant in an increasingly regionalised and polarised world?

Join this EURACTIV Virtual Conference to discuss the crossroads we find ourselves at. If Europe is to thrive, how can EU trade be ready for a vastly different global future? How will industries, such as steel, fare? Questions to be discussed:

- How can the multilateral trade framework be strengthened to ensure stability, predictability and a rules-based environment for fair and sustainable trade for EU companies?
- Is EU trade policy and enforcement fit for purpose? What can be done to make it function correctly?
- How can EU trade policy support the EU's wider industrial, energy, climate and environmental policies?
- Steel and steel products are an intensively traded product class, regularly exposed to dumping. How can long-running problems be resolved so that Europe's strategic, steel-based value chain is preserved and contributes to other EU priorities?

## FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

**Simona Ovesea**

[simona.ovesea@euractiv.com](mailto:simona.ovesea@euractiv.com)

+32 (0)2 788 36 86



Follow the discussion

#eaDebates

[@eaEconomy](https://twitter.com/eaEconomy)

## PANELLISTS

**Leopoldo Rubinacci**, Director, Trade Defence, DG TRADE, European Commission

**Marie-Pierre Vedrenne MEP**, Member, INTA Committee, Rapporteur "Exercise of the Union's rights for the application and enforcement of international trade rules", European Parliament

**Axel Eggert**, Director General, EUROFER

**Giles Dickson**, Chief Executive Officer, WindEurope

## MODERATOR

**Frédéric Simon**, Energy Editor, EURACTIV

## PROGRAMME

**14:30 – 14:35** Welcome

**14:35 – 14:50** Panelists statements

**14:50 – 15:40** Discussion and Q&A

**15:40 – 15:45** Closing statements

A Virtual Conference  
organised by  
EURACTIV  
With the support of

**EUROFER**  
THE EUROPEAN STEEL ASSOCIATION