

Brussels, 7 September 2026

Subject: Urgent meeting request on aluminium scrap export measures

Honourable President von der Leyen,
Honourable Executive-Vice President Séjourné,
Honourable Commissioner Šefčovič,

On behalf of the entire European aluminium industry, we are writing to express our profound shock, disappointment and anger over Friday's announcement that the long-awaited and urgently needed proposal for a Council Regulation establishing an export duty on aluminium scrap has been (at least temporarily) withdrawn. As the Commission has repeatedly acknowledged in recent years, aluminium scrap is a highly strategic resource and a critical raw material that is essential to Europe's ambitions as regards circularity, decarbonisation, economic security and strategic autonomy.

The Commission rightly took time to carry out in-depth analysis with the active support of our organisation and our wider industry before making a clear and explicit commitment in the RESource EU Action Plan to propose '*targeted measures on aluminium scrap in Spring 2026, to address global imbalances and maintain the competitiveness of the aluminium industries and deliver on the Steel and Metal Action Plan*'.

On this basis, and further to years of encouragement from the European Union to embrace circularity, our industry has continued to invest heavily in developing secondary production technology and capacity. Now, just two weeks before the scheduled publication of a proposal that was already promised for Q2, we learn that the Commission is unable or unwilling to proceed at this time. To say this decision undermines our confidence in the EU policy process, in which we engage every day in a spirit of goodwill, cooperation and trust, is an understatement. Whatever the geopolitical context behind this decision, we are united in finding it entirely unacceptable.

We are aware of, appreciate and support the Commission's efforts to address the issue via alternative policy instruments, but we wish to make clear that these can only work as complementary pieces to the trade measure and as part of an overall strategy. We do not believe they constitute a plausible alternative to the planned export duty in and of themselves.

On behalf of the entire European aluminium industry, we request an urgent meeting to discuss this deeply regrettable situation, and call on you to urgently put a trade measure with the widest possible territorial and product scope back on the agenda at the earliest possible opportunity. The scale and urgency of the issue demand nothing less.

Sincerely yours,

Paul Voss, Director General

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Voss".

Paul Warton, Chair at European Aluminium

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Warton".