

Maroš Šefčovič

Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security

cab-sefcovic-contact@ec.europa.eu

15 October 2026

Urgent call to integrate monopiles in steel safeguards

Dear Commissioner Šefčovič,

On behalf of industriAll Europe and the Offshore Wind Foundation Alliance, we are writing to express our deep concern about the growing pressure on Europe's offshore wind foundation industry and to call on the Commission to ensure that monopiles (including transition pieces) are covered by EU steel trade safeguards.

Offshore wind foundations are a strategic part of Europe's clean energy and industrial value chain. They are essential for meeting the EU's offshore wind targets, strengthening European energy independence and securing high quality industrial jobs.

In Europe there are 7 monopiles manufactures (CS Wind, EEW SPC, Haizea, Sif, Smulders, Steelwind, Windar) in 5 countries (Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark and Spain) that covered until 2024 100 % of the European demand for monopiles. This industrial base is now under serious threat. While steel plates and certain pipes are covered by trade measures, finished monopiles can still enter the European market without equivalent protection. This creates a loophole in the current safeguard framework and allows unfairly priced imports to undermine European manufacturers, workers and supply chains.

The impact is already being felt. Chinese suppliers are gaining market share in European offshore wind projects, supported by lower raw material costs, state support and conditions that European producers cannot match. They are able to offer monopiles at prices with which European manufacturers can hardly compete, as Chinese heavy plate steel is significantly subsidized by the state. Steel prices are 50% lower than in Europe. In general, Chinese monopile prices are 10% to 30% lower. This is not fair competition because if the raw material is protected measures also have to be applied to processed and final goods. It risks creating long term underutilisation of European production capacity, putting thousands of skilled jobs at risk and weakening a strategic clean tech supply chain at the very moment when Europe needs it most.

Europe cannot build its energy transition on deindustrialisation. If the EU is serious about the Net Zero Industry Act, the future of European steel, and resilient clean technology supply chains, offshore wind foundations must be treated as a strategic sector. Allowing this market to

be captured through unfair trade practices would undermine Europe's industrial sovereignty and increase dependence on third countries for a key part of the renewable energy value chain.

We therefore urge the Commission to close this loophole by integrating monopiles and offshore wind foundations into the EU steel safeguard framework and any future measure addressing protection of downstream products. The review of the scope of these measures should be carried out rapidly so that strategic downstream steel products are not left exposed.

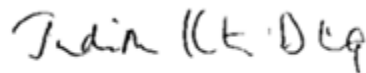
This is not a request to shield European industry from fair competition. It is a call for a level playing field, for industrial resilience and for the protection of skilled jobs in a sector that is central to Europe's climate and energy objectives.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue with you and your services at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Offshore Wind Foundations Alliance

industriAll Europe



Robert Dreves

Judith Kirton-Darling

Managing Director EEW SPC

General Secretary

As a member signing on behalf
of OWFA



Jürgen Kerner

Vice President industriAll Europe