



EUROPE'S
TECHNOLOGY
INDUSTRIES



JOINT INDUSTRY STATEMENT

EU safeguard investigation on Grain-Oriented Electrical Steel

6 June 2026

The co-signatories represent Europe's renewable electricity generators, distribution system operators, transformer manufacturers and technology providers. Our industries are key enablers of Europe's quest for greater energy security and independence.

We are very concerned about the opening of an EU safeguard investigation into imports of Grain-Oriented Electrical Steel (GOES)¹, a critical input for transformers, which are simply indispensable for electrifying the European economy.

Any safeguard measure would not only directly affect the European transformer industry, operating more than 80 factories throughout the EU and employing more than 20,000 people. It would also immediately raise the cost of transformers for transmission and distribution system operators, electric utilities and large industrial sites.

- 1. We call on the European Commission to conclude its investigation and refrain from imposing any provisional or definitive safeguard measures on imports of GOES.**
- 2. We call on EU Member States to oppose any safeguard measures on GOES imports to preserve the competitiveness of a critical and successful strategic net-zero industry sector, providing the technologies for Europe's electricity system that will enable greater energy security and independence.**

¹ [Commission initiates safeguard investigation into imports of grain-oriented electrical steel](#)

Safeguard measures will weaken European competitiveness and energy security

Measures that increase the cost or restrict the availability of GOES in the EU could have unintended consequences across the electricity value chain, especially on delaying grid expansion, undermining electrification targets, and increasing infrastructure costs, ultimately affecting consumers.

GOES imports have already been subject to anti-dumping measures since 2015 and since January 2026 are also subject to the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). Adding a safeguard layer on top would impose a disproportionate cumulative cost burden on downstream industries without resolving the structural constraints in EU GOES supply and grade availability.

To achieve the strategic goals of greater energy security and independence, Europe must speed up its electrification pathway. Safeguard measures on GOES clearly contradict this goal.

Safeguard measures on GOES are not warranted

We believe that safeguard measures on GOES are not warranted. There is no recent, sudden, sharp and significant increase in imports of GOES in the EU.

Current European production of GOES does not meet the volume and quality requirements demanded by transformer manufacturers. In particular, advanced grades used in high-performance transformers remain insufficiently available within the EU. As a result, current imports are not a matter of preference but a necessity to sustain transformer production in Europe. Limiting access to these imports risks creating bottlenecks in the transformer supply chain, which would ultimately delay grid investments and infrastructure deployment.

Safeguard measures are not the solution

We fully support the development of a vibrant European GOES industry that can deliver the necessary quantities of steel of the required grades for the manufacturing of transformers in the EU. However, protectionist trade measures have thus far proven ineffective. The minimum import prices on GOES that have been in place since 2015 have neither resulted in greater EU produced GOES quantities, nor has it increased significantly the availability of higher grades.

There are better ways to strengthen Europe's GOES industry

We call on European policymakers to seek other mechanisms to support European manufacturers of GOES that would also maintain and strengthen the competitiveness of Europe's transformer industry.

In the short term, European policy measures must make sure that European current capacity is used at maximum, to preserve Europe's industry and know-how. In medium- and long-term, measures should

encourage and commit European GOES producers to invest in capacity and innovation. At the same time, they should ensure continued access to global supply in the short to medium term to meet higher demand while supporting the competitiveness of transformer manufacturing within Europe. Finally, any measures must ensure coherence between trade defence instruments and CBAM, so the overall framework does not unintentionally delay grid investments.

We are available to contribute wherever we can to a stronger GOES industry in Europe that will lead to greater energy sovereignty and increased resilience in our industrial supply chain. We strongly caution against any decisions and provisional or definitive measures that will harm the European transformer manufacturers.

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