The European Association of the Electricity Transmission and Distribution Equipment and Services Industry

T&D Europe statement on the provisional safeguard measure on grain-oriented electrical steel (GOES)

30 October 2026

The Commission has adopted provisional safeguard measures on the imports of transformer steel called GOES. They were published on the 18th of September 2026 and entered into force on the 25th of September for a period of 155 days. These measures directly impact transformer manufacturers in 20 EU Member States.

A strong EU value chain for transformers is essential to strengthen Europe's competitiveness and resilience, made in Europe and with European partners. EU transformer manufacturers support a viable GOES industry in the European Union, capable of delivering the necessary quantities, the required quality and competitive prices within a foreseeable timeframe. However, while they lead to increased manufacturing costs, the provisional safeguard measure provides no guarantee, nor does it contain any firm commitment, that the necessary investments will be made and deliver the desired outcomes. Nor does it provide a commitment that the increasingly important higher-performing grades will be produced in the EU in the foreseeable future (because currently they are not).

This puts European manufacturers at a disadvantage compared with competitors producing transformers outside the EU, at precisely the time when Europe needs more grid equipment. This is why T&D Europe does not support these safeguard measures. Our preferred solution is therefore for the European Commission to withdraw the provisional safeguard measure and work with GOES producers, Member States and customers on a credible investment plan that can deliver the quantities, quality, and competitive prices European industry needs.

Over the coming weeks and months T&D Europe and its members will discuss with the Commission, Member States and the EU GOES industry a set of measures that would support a strong EU value chain for transformers. If Europe intends to protect the entire value chain, the Commission should withdraw the provisional GOES safeguard measures and work with EU GOES producers, the Member States hosting those producers, namely France, Germany and Poland, and GOES customers, in 20 EU Member States, to develop a tangible and realistic investment plan for a modern and future oriented GOES industry in the European Union. That plan should credibly address the investment required to modernise EU GOES production, ensure sufficient production capacity to meet European demand, as well as the availability of the required qualities, the development of the increasingly important higher-performing grades, a realistic

delivery timetable, and supply at prices that allow the European transformer industry to remain competitive and innovative for European customers.

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T&D Europe represents the European transmission and distribution technology industry with more than 600 companies and 450 factories, employing over 175,000 people.