

Supporting offshore wind foundations in the EU steel measures

No offshore wind without European foundations

OWFA welcomes the European Commission's newly proposed steel trade measure, announced on 7 October 2025, which aims to address global excess capacities of steel. OWFA notes positively the Commission's holistic approach to better support the steel sector by including some semi-finished and finished products. However, the new measures cannot fulfil their main objective as crucial downstream products, that are already used to circumvent the current safeguards and anti-dumping duties, are not included. Hence, downstream products such as offshore wind foundations must be included to effectively respond to global overcapacities and protect key European steel-related industries.

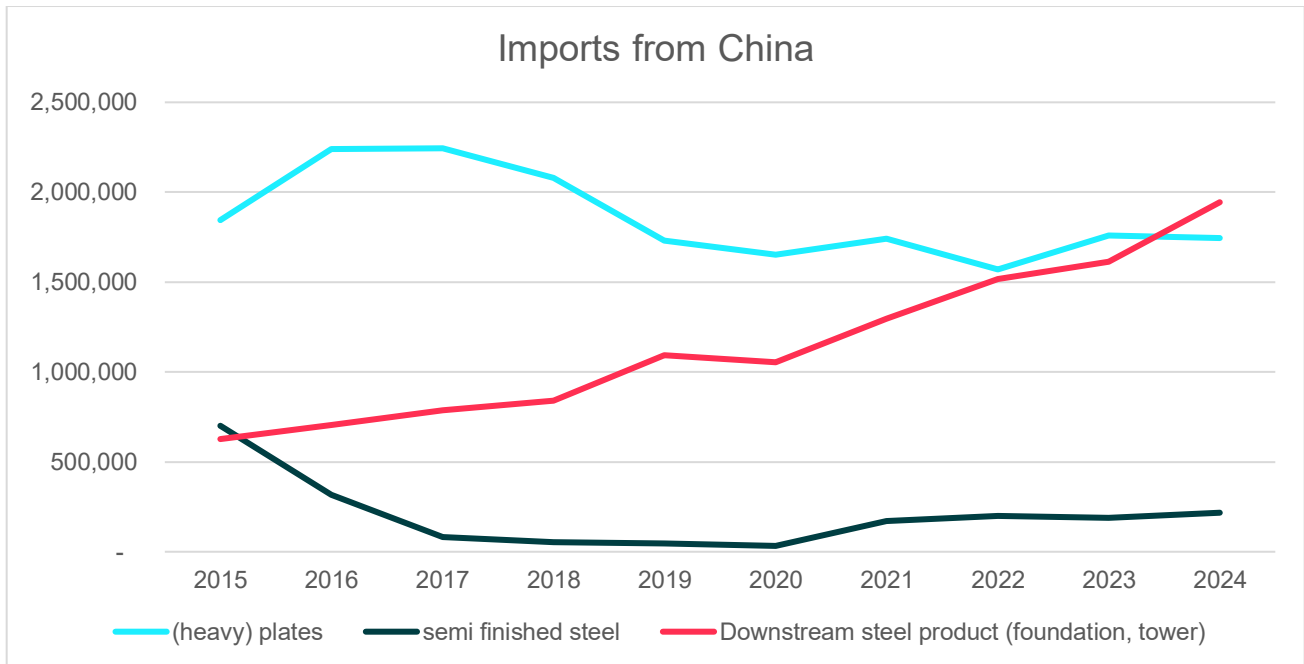
Global steel overcapacities cannot be fully addressed if critical downstream sectors such as offshore wind foundations are not included.

OWFA calls for the current steel measures to be extended to additional CN codes within chapter 73, namely 7308 90 98 90, 7308 90 59. This will:

- Ensure steel overcapacities do not circumvent the duties via critical downstream sectors such as offshore wind foundations
- Better support the European offshore wind foundations industry, a global leader that is facing an increasingly destabilised market

Offshore wind foundations have been designated as a *main specific component* in the Net-Zero Industry Act, and the Commission has a target of 60 GW of offshore wind installed by 2030. European foundation manufacturers are global leaders in this industry, but without adequate protection against an unlevel playing field, the industry faces a critical threat. OWFA commends the Commission's efforts to address steel overcapacities, but stresses that the current measures further destabilise the offshore foundations market.

The current steel measures allow steel overcapacities to still enter the EU through finished downstream goods in the form of an offshore foundation, bypassing upstream duties. This circumvention is already happening now. By not including offshore foundations in the new steel measure the Commission risks weakening the measures and further destabilising the supply chains for strategic industries. Steel overcapacities can only be addressed if the entire value chain is protected. This is exemplified in the below chart that shows that imports of goods covered by protective measures have been decreasing, while the imports of unprotected finished products such as foundations have been increasing over the same period.



The offshore foundation industry already competes on an unlevel playing field, and the lack of protection in the steel measures extends this. Downstream industries such as offshore foundations cannot access cheaper raw materials from third countries but remain exposed to dumped finished products. Therefore, the offshore foundation industry is at risk from steel overcapacities in two ways – first, due to non-EU suppliers having easier access to cheap steel, and second, due to the lack of protection for the offshore wind supply chain in the current steel measures.

Looking at the entire value chain, this lack of protection will also negatively impact the European steel industry. Offshore wind foundations use heavy plate steel almost exclusively. If this industry goes out of business due to the lack of adequate support, the European steel mills supplying this heavy plate steel will lose a crucial customer. This is why the entire value chain must be properly protected.

The current measures include CN codes from the same chapter (Chapter 73) as those for offshore wind foundations. OWFA calls for policymakers to extend the scope of the measures to include codes falling within 7308, specifically those within 7308 90 98 90, 7308 90 59 and 7308 20 000. This would ensure that the critical sector of offshore wind foundations is better supported by the steel measures, just as other ‘large, welded tubes’ falling within the 7306 CN code are protected.

Finally, OWFA calls for the scope review to be performed more frequently than every two years, as currently proposed. The Commission should be obligated to accept data provided by industry on a rolling basis to determine if there is sufficient information to expand the scope to additional pieces of the value chain.

About the Offshore Wind Foundations Alliance:

[OWFA](#) is a coalition of seven European companies producing offshore wind foundations: [CS Wind Offshore](#) (Denmark), [EEW Special Pipe Constructions GmbH](#) (Germany), [Sif Netherlands BV](#) (Netherlands), [Smulders Projects](#) (Belgium), [Haizea Bilbao S.L.](#) (Spain), [Steelwind Nordenham GmbH](#) (Germany) and [Windar Renovables](#) (Spain).

OWFA members are leaders in the global foundations industry and have produced more than 10,000 monopiles, jackets and transition pieces and have contributed to installing more than 26,000 MW of offshore wind energy capacity. Collectively, they employ almost 7,000 workers. The Alliance was created in 2021 to raise the industry's voice in Brussels.