

## **Immediate Release: Wednesday 16 January 2019**

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### **EU Safeguard Measures on Steel Approved**

Commenting on the approval of the EU Commission's proposals for safeguard measures on steel, UK Steel Director General, Gareth Stace said:

*"Member State's approval of these definitive safeguard measures is enormously welcome. With the provisional measures due to expire in just two weeks' time it was imperative we saw a positive result today and the swift introduction of longer term measures to provide the necessary protection for the steel sector.*

*"The bigger picture of course remains a negative one. No-one wants to resort to trade restrictions but the circumstances unfortunately demand it. These measures are only necessary due to the US's ongoing 25% tax on steel imports, which has disrupted global trade flows, diverting significant volumes of steel from the US to the EU, and hampered our ability to export to the US. The best solution for everyone is the removal of US tariffs, but until that happens these safeguards are essential.*

*"From a UK perspective, the priority for the Government must be to come forward with a contingency plan for what happens in the event of a no-deal Brexit. At present, no deal means no safeguards for UK companies. This cannot be allowed to happen, particularly on top of all the damage the mayhem of a no-deal Brexit would heap upon the sector – we need certainty now."*

**ENDS.**

#### *About UK Steel*

*UK Steel, a division of EEF, is the trade association for the UK steel industry. It represents all the country's steelmakers and a large number of downstream steel processors.*

*EEF, the manufacturers' organisation, is the representative voice of UK manufacturing, with offices in London, Brussels, every English region and Wales. This year we celebrate 120 years of backing Britain's makers.*