



## EU safeguards quota to hit Turkish rebar mills - Report

Reuters quoting some sources said that the European Commission's move to extend its steel import restrictions threatens to force Turkish mills, already buckling under the weight of US tariffs, to cut production further or in some cases close down.

A London based Turkish steel trader told Reuters that "Our export markets have disappeared, the local market hardly exists, we've got lots of capacity and no market."

Turkish Steel Exporters' Association (CIB) head Adnan Aslan said "EU quotas for Turkish rebar are extremely low and will be exceeded in the first one or two months. Local demand is also extremely poor."

International Rebar Producers and Exports Association said traditional export destinations for Turkish mills are closing one after the other. Most probably, the EU quotas will be filled immediately, so EU producers will have a relatively good year. Major Turkish mills such as Cebitas and Ekinciler said they had, before the EU announcement, already slashed output while



KocMetalurji said it had stopped output for about a month. However, Erdemir, Turkey's largest producer, said it was producing as normal.

The Commission said in a statement that it will extend and beef up its existing safeguard steel import caps until July 2021 to counter concerns that European Union markets are being flooded with steel no longer being

exported to the United States. For Turkey's vast steel sector, the fourth largest contributor to the country's economy, the caps could prove particularly painful as the EU has given it additional country-specific quotas.

Under the safeguards, Turkey has a tariff-free quota for rebar, a construction steel that makes up most of its steel exports, of around 300,000 tonnes for the first nine months of the respective quota periods, down 60 percent from its 2018 exports. Country-specific restrictions do not apply in the last three months of the quota periods and Turkey could make up some sales then, but its annual export levels will still be sharply lower. ■

## Iran produced over 27 million tonnes of iron ore

Iran produced 27,031 million tonnes of iron ore during the nine-month period ended on December 21, 2018, IRNA reported citing the data released by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization. It put the amount of raw iron ore extracted during the mentioned time at 48,759 million tonnes.



The country exported \$1.072 billion of iron ore in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2018), which indicates 31.1 percent rise from its

previous year's figure, according to the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration. China was the main buyer of Iran's iron ore in the past year, importing USD 1.043 billion of the product from Iran, which is 97 percent of the total exports.

Iraq, India, Russia and Afghanistan stood at the next places after China in the past year. ■

Furthermore, the country's non-oil trade data shows that Iran has exported USD 537.1 million of iron ore concentrate and iron ore pellet in the mentioned nine-month period.

## Tehran steel projects worth USD 500 million to become operational

Steel projects valued at USD 500 million will be put into operation in the country by the end of current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2019), Iranian Deputy Industry, Mining and Trade Minister announced.

Haddad Qaribpour further said that steel projects worth USD 500 million have become operational in Iran since the beginning of current year.

The official also put the country's value of steel exports at USD 3 billion since the year start. ■