

Preliminary anti-dumping duties on Chinese flat rolled products applauded by European aluminium industry

Brussels, 22 March 2021 – The European aluminium industry applauds the European Commission for its intention to impose provisional anti-dumping duties on certain flat rolled products originating in China. The duty rates vary from 19,6 to 47,3% and result from an anti-dumping investigation opened on the 14th of August 2020, following a complaint from European Aluminium. The [announcement](#) is an important step forward in the fight against China’s unfair trade practices.¹

“Dumped imports from China are driving European aluminium producers out of business and discourage them from investing in innovations that can boost decarbonisation and recycling. We are grateful the Commission is taking the necessary steps to protect our industry against unfair competition,” says Gerd Götz, Director General at European Aluminium.

Flat rolled aluminium imports from China in the EU included in the investigation’s scope increased from 171 kilotonnes in 2016 to approximately 330 kilotonnes last year. In 2020, the market share of these imports from China reached more than 12% and doubled compared to 5 years ago.²

The provisional duties on certain aluminium flat rolled products are expected to be imposed by the 15th of April. In the meantime, the European Commission’s investigation will continue and is expected to be finalised in October 2021. At that point, the duties will likely be confirmed as definitive. If the definitive duties are confirmed, they will typically be in place for five years. Last October, the EU already imposed preliminary duties between 21,2% and 32,1% on aluminium extrusions originating in China.³

Semi-fabricated aluminium products from China are also subject to anti-dumping duties in other major markets like the US, Canada, India, South Korea, Australia and Vietnam.

“Aluminium extrusions and flat rolled products are the most important aluminium markets in Europe. The Commission’s decision to impose anti-dumping duties on Chinese aluminium extrusions and certain flat rolled products proves that EU producers have been really damaged by China’s unfair trade practices. While anti-dumping duties can provide some relief in the short term, we also need a long-term global solution to address subsidised Chinese overcapacity,” concluded Götz.

¹ Information at the provisional stage (pre-disclosure).

² In its landmark report, [“Measuring distortions in international markets: The aluminium value chain,”](#) the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) highlights that Chinese producers are recipients of vast amounts of state subsidies, which stimulates them to increase production and allows them to offer products below production costs on the international market. According to the report, global aluminium companies have received up to USD 70 billion in different forms of support over the 2013-2017 period. Notably, 85 percent of the documented subsidies went to just five Chinese firms.

³ For more information, see the [case history](#) on the European Commission’s website.

Note to editors:

The products subject to the provisional duties are aluminium products, flat rolled, whether or not alloyed, whether or not further worked than flat rolled, not backed, without internal layers of other material:

- in coils or in coiled strips, in cut-to-length sheets, or in the form of circles; of a thickness of 0,2 mm or more but not more than 6 mm;
- in plates, of a thickness of more than 6 mm;
- in coils or coiled strips of a thickness of not less than 0.03 mm but less than 0.2 mm.

Excluded are beverage canstock, bodypanels for the car industry and aluminium used in the manufacture of aircraft parts.

The main applications of the products concerned are the building and construction sector, foil sector, technical applications, transport sector and consumer durables

About European Aluminium:

European Aluminium, founded in 1981 and based in Brussels, is the voice of the aluminium industry in Europe. We actively engage with decision makers and the wider stakeholder community to promote the outstanding properties of aluminium, secure growth and optimise the contribution our metal can make to meeting Europe's sustainability challenges. Through environmental and technical expertise, economic and statistical analysis, scientific research, education and sharing of best practices, public affairs and communication activities, European Aluminium promotes the use of aluminium as a material with permanent properties that is part of the solution to achieving sustainable goals, while maintaining and improving the image of the industry, of the material and of its applications among their stakeholders. Our 80+ members include primary aluminium producers; downstream manufacturers of extruded, rolled and cast aluminium; producers of recycled aluminium and national aluminium associations are representing more than 600 plants in 30 European countries. Aluminium products are used in a wide range of markets, including automotive, transport, high-tech engineering, building, construction and packaging.

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