



EUROPEAN ALUMINIUM

**European Aluminium - Executives**

Dr. Gerd Götz, Director General  
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**Open letter to:**

Madam President von der Leyen  
Executive Vice-President, Commissioner for Trade Mr. Dombrovskis  
Executive Vice-President Mr. Timmermans  
Vice-President Mr. Šefčovič  
Commissioner for Internal Market Mr. Breton  
European Commission

Brussels, 15/09/2021

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Commissioners,

Representing Europe's aluminium value chain, we, the co-signatories of this open letter, write to express our strong opposition against the proposed 9-month suspension plans of the definitive anti-dumping duties on certain aluminium flat rolled products (FRPs) originating in China.

With 40 rolling mills in 17 EU Member States<sup>1</sup>, more than 36,000 employees and an annual turnover of €4 billion, the European aluminium FRP market is a vital contributor to the prosperity of the European economy. Our products supply essential industry sectors such as mobility, building and construction, packaging, technical applications, consumer durables and the foil sector.

For years, we have warned policy makers that China's distortive government support and excess capacity in the upstream and downstream aluminium sectors destroy fair competition and depress global prices. Both the OECD's latest report on below-market finance and the anti-dumping investigation into our sector have confirmed the severe industrial damage caused by China's unfair trade practices.

Chinese imports do not only ruin our competitiveness, but they also shatter Europe's sustainability ambitions. Suspending the urgently needed anti-dumping duties will keep the floodgates open for imports of high-carbon aluminium products from China. With 20kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per kg of primary aluminium compared to the European average of 7kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per kg of aluminium, Chinese aluminium has a much higher carbon footprint than products produced in Europe.

We want to reiterate that the definitive anti-dumping duties on Chinese FRPs are balanced, fair and critical to the survival of our industry in Europe. They raise the price of illegally under-priced imports to reflect their actual value without blocking Chinese imports so that all producers can compete on a level playing field. A suspension of the duties will have a long-lasting damaging impact on the entire European aluminium value chain - and beyond. Tens of thousands of EU jobs and hundreds of millions of euros in decarbonisation and recycling investments are on the line.

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<sup>1</sup> Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.



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Currently, the profitability of European FRP producers is only 1.9% in the first quarter of 2021, far below the profit margin of 6% that the Union legislator qualifies as the expected margin under normal conditions of competition.

By affecting our competitiveness, a suspension of anti-dumping measures will also jeopardise our efforts to meet the objectives of the Green Deal while setting a dangerous precedent for other ongoing or future anti-dumping cases. Investment certainty and robust corrective trade defence measures are critical conditions to continue to invest in decarbonisation and recycling and to create additional sustainable jobs. The definitive anti-dumping measures on Chinese aluminium extrusions are a clear example of this. Since the application of the measures on extrusions earlier this year, a major producer has revamped a mothballed extrusion plant in Sweden and increased existing EU-based capacity for sustainable primary aluminium production.

Beyond the imminent damage resulting from the suspension, we want to point out the danger of longer-lasting effects such as stockpiling by importers during the suspension period. Because of its excess capacities, China can export large quantities of FRPs during this period, undermining the effectiveness of anti-dumping measures beyond the suspension period. We are also concerned about a suspension's impact on the transatlantic negotiations about the U.S. Section 232 measures and the spillover risk to other anti-dumping cases and sectors.

Besides the strong political and economic reasons to withdraw the suspension plans, we would like to point to Europe's capacity situation. As acknowledged by the European Commission's findings, with 20%, the EU capacity for all products under the anti-dumping investigation's product scope is set to meet the current and future EU demand. Furthermore, aluminium users can continue to choose from non-EU suppliers, including Chinese imports, that do not dump.

On that basis, we respectfully request the Commission not to suspend the definitive measures due for October 2021. Our companies and employees count on you to defend the European aluminium sector against unfair trade practices and ensure investment and legal certainty.

Yours Sincerely,

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