

European aluminium producers oppose suspension of long-overdue anti-dumping duties

Brussels, 11 October 2021 - European Aluminium, the voice of the European aluminium value chain, welcomes the European Commission's final confirmation of the definitive anti-dumping duties needed to counteract the impact of Chinese dumping of flat-rolled products (FRPs) on the EU market. Accordingly, European Aluminium strongly opposes the contradictory 9-month suspension of these duties officially announced by the European Commission today. European Aluminium is ready to pursue all available avenues to fight the unjustified suspension of the long-overdue trade defence measures.

The European Commission's Definitive Findings in the anti-dumping investigation into certain aluminium flat-rolled products (FRP, [case AD668](#)) clearly confirmed that China practices injurious dumping of aluminium FRPs on the EU market, causing significant material injury to EU producers. Definitive anti-dumping duties are set at 14% to 25% to raise China's dumped prices to market-conform prices. However, the duties, which were greenlighted by the EU Member States and set to be implemented on 12 October 2021, are now suspended for 9 months.

Setting a dangerous precedent for trade defence cases in other sectors, the suspension sends the wrong signal to both international trade partners and China regarding the EU's commitment to fighting unfair trade practices.

"The definitive anti-dumping duties set by the Commission are justified, balanced and long-overdue. China has been dumping underpriced and high-carbon aluminium on our market for many years, jeopardising the viability of our industry in the long run while compromising the EU's Green Deal ambitions. The decision to suspend the definitive duties is illogical and goes against the assertive trade defence policy announced by the Commission. We urge the European Commission to annul the duty suspension and effectively leverage its trade defence tools to level the playing field for European aluminium producers," European Aluminium's Director General Gerd Götz comments.

The suspension will have a devastating impact on the EU aluminium value chain, even beyond the suspension period. Tens of thousands of EU jobs and EU investments into decarbonisation and recycling are at risk. Besides the long-term economic blow, the suspension will give a carte blanche to China's dumped high-carbon aluminium imports, while the European aluminium industry has proven to hold sufficient capacity to supply Europe's aluminium demand with more sustainable aluminium.¹

"The suspension is the result of an inadequate, rushed 30-day investigation and contradicts the findings of the European Commission's initial anti-dumping investigation, which confirmed the existence of material injury. We cannot accept that the EU will allow the proven injury to European aluminium producers to continue based on an unjustified suspension, so we are exploring all available options to fight it," Götz concluded.

¹ The carbon footprint of European primary aluminium production is one of the lowest globally: approximately 7kg of CO2 per kg of aluminium compared to the Chinese average of 20kg of CO2 per kg of aluminium.

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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