



AEGIS Europe calls for greater certainty and clarity on the suspension of trade defence measures

Brussels, 20 December 2021 – AEGIS Europe welcomes the cases lodged on 17 December by European Aluminium against the suspension of the anti-dumping duties imposed by the Commission on aluminium flat-rolled products and the non-collection of provisional duties.

Suspension has only ever been applied three times and not at all in the last 10 years. It has never happened before that a suspension was imposed at the same time that measures were imposed. The aluminium case is unique.

The non-collection of provisional duties in these circumstances is also unique. Provisional duties have always been collected except where the final measures are based on threat of injury or where a minimum import price has been agreed. Neither of these exceptions applied in the aluminium case.

'This unjustified break with established Commission practice introduces an unacceptable level of uncertainty into the implementation of the EU's trade defence policy,' says Ines Van Lierde, the Chair of AEGIS Europe. *'This is why AEGIS Europe needs to speak out.'*

AEGIS Europe is also concerned about the unevenness and confusion in the Commission's approach. The Commission opened a suspension investigation in the ongoing aluminium dumping investigation but did not do so in other ongoing investigations like birch plywood. The Commission has not been able to show the reasons for the different approaches in comparable investigations.

'If the EU is to remain an open economy, unfair practices like dumping and subsidies must be rigorously stamped out,' says Van Lierde. *'Where there is dumping, the EU industry must be given a chance to recover from the unfair low prices on the market and attain a level of profit that allows for research, innovation and decarbonisation. Suspending measures and not collecting the provisional duties does not allow that recovery to begin,'* says Van Lierde.

The applications by European Aluminium give an opportunity to the Court to lay down guidelines for the implementation of the suspension procedures and the collection of provisional duties. It is in the interest not only of Union manufacturers but of importers and users that clarity and transparency are established. AEGIS Europe deeply regrets that the Commission did not provide this clarity.

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About AEGIS Europe:

AEGIS Europe is an industry alliance that brings together more than 20 European manufacturing associations from metals and ceramics to energy and transportation industries committed to manufacturing in the EU on a truly level playing field ensured by a rules-based free and fair international trade. Our members account for more than €500 billion in annual turnover, as well as for millions of jobs across the EU.