



AEGIS Europe urges the Commission not to suspend all trade defence measures because of the war

Brussels, 22 March 2022 – Suspending trade defence measures across the board undermines the EU’s *open-autonomy* strategy. EU markets are already open as trade defence does not close them. Autonomy, on the other hand, will be the first victim of suspensions as EU industries will be exposed to distorted competition. The war in Ukraine has not stopped unfair trade.

The manufacturing alliance points out a general suspension of all trade defence measures is bad law. Trade defence is product specific. The law requires procedures to be followed, the evaluation of Union Interest and individual consultation of the different industries concerned. A war should not cause the Commission to act to the detriment of law. Suspension procedures must follow the criteria already set out in the trade defence instruments.

“The problem is not imports, but energy and raw material price spikes. The war has exacerbated problems which were already present because of the pandemic. Not only do EU manufacturers have the capacity to produce more, but imports from countries not dumping or subsidising are available to supply EU needs. Availability of supply is always something that is checked by the Commission before adopting measures. Furthermore, even supplies subject to trade defence measures remain available as the goal is not to stop them but to restore fair competition,” comments Inés Van Lierde, Chair of AEGIS Europe.

Suspending measures is like jumping from the frying pan into the fire. It creates new dependencies without solving real economic or strategic problems.

AEGIS Europe represents essential EU manufacturing industries fundamental to the EU’s open strategic autonomy policy and the Green Deal. Without its domestic industrial manufacturing base, the EU becomes vulnerable, just like it has become with gas.

The trade defence measures are in place to allow these industries to stay healthy and evolve to achieve the EU’s environmental, social and innovation policies. They not stop imports. They slow down corrosive imports: imports that are dumped or subsidised or pushed by governments to penetrate the EU market and hurt EU manufacturing.

“AEGIS Europe urges the Commission not to consider a general suspension of trade defence measures. We need strong manufacturing in Europe to be strategically autonomous.” concluded Inès Van Lierde, Chair of AEGIS Europe.

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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.