

EU should speak with one voice and define a clear plan to respond to unjustified metal tariffs, says European Aluminium

Brussels, 12 March 2018 – During an extraordinary joint press conference with steel association EUROFER, Trade Unions and EU Ministers, European Aluminium called all European institutions to speak with one voice in response to President Trump’s decision to impose tariffs on aluminium. Director General, Gerd Götz, explained 232 measures “will neglect the root cause of today’s global aluminium unbalances: increasing overcapacities in China and unfair trade practices that follow”.

“Tariffs on aluminium won’t fix the main challenge but rather risk to further imbalance global trade flows and deviate the attention from a long-standing solution on increasing Chinese overcapacities. While we expect a positive outcome of the discussions between EU and US authorities on 232, aluminium capacity in China is growing quarter after quarter. Excess capacity alone in China last year totalled 11 million metric tons of aluminium - 40 percent of the rest of the world’s total production of 27.5 million metric tons,” said Gerd Götz in his speech.

European Aluminium represents the entire value chain with more than 600 plants in Europe and 1 million direct and indirect jobs. The key ask of the association is to work with international partners to create the Aluminium Global Forum within the G20 forum.

“We urge Brussels and Washington and all other G20 members to continue to work together in creating an enforceable global playing field through a Global Aluminium Forum,” said Götz.

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.