

European Aluminium welcomes EU anti-dumping investigation into Chinese aluminium flat rolled products

Brussels, 14 August 2020 – Today, the European Commission announced the opening of an anti-dumping investigation into certain aluminium flat rolled products originating from China, following a complaint by European Aluminium. European Aluminium urges the European Commission to follow through with appropriate anti-dumping measures to minimise the harmful effects of unfairly priced Chinese imports.¹

“In February this year, the EU already opened an anti-dumping investigation into aluminium extrusions originating from China. With this new investigation into aluminium flat rolled products, the largest share of the aluminium imports is under scrutiny. It’s obvious that Chinese firms aren’t respecting the global rules of free and fair trade and the numbers show they are dumping more and more products on our market. The volumes of excess capacity they have built up are so massive, they could replace the entire European aluminium production,” says Gerd Götz, Director General of European Aluminium.

Flat rolled aluminium imports from China in the EU included in the scope of the investigation increased from 171 kilotonnes in 2016 to 330 kilotonnes last year. In 2019, the market share of these imports from China reached more than 12% and had doubled compared to four years ago.

Subsidised aluminium production in China undermines European production, distorts global markets and depresses global aluminium prices, threatening the competitiveness of the European aluminium industry while undermining its sustainability ambitions.² Furthermore, the influx of dumped products to Europe jeopardises European investments in decarbonisation and recycling.

“We commend the European Commission for opening the investigation, which, together with the ongoing extrusions case, will help ensure the survival of the European aluminium value chain. The EU has given China too much leeway already and still largely remains unprotected against dumped Chinese aluminium products. Now the EU must act decisively and rapidly to ensure the survival of the European aluminium value chain, which is critical to low carbon applications including renewable energy, batteries, electricity systems, resource-efficient packaging, energy-efficient buildings, and clean mobility,” concludes Götz.

¹ In its landmark report, [“Measuring distortions in international markets: The aluminium value chain,”](#) the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) highlights that Chinese producers are recipients of vast amounts of state subsidies, which stimulates them to increase production and allows them to offer products below production costs on the international market. According to the report, global aluminium companies have received up to USD 70 billion in different forms of support over the 2013-2017 period. Notably, 85 percent of the documented subsidies went to just five Chinese firms.

² The carbon intensity of the primary aluminium production in Europe is approximately 7kgCO₂e per kg of aluminium produced compared to a global average of 17kgCO₂e per kg of aluminium and a Chinese average of 20kgCO₂e per kg. Furthermore, European aluminium production complies with much higher standards when it comes to the environment (e.g. industrial emissions and waste), social and human rights, governance and transparency rules.

Note to editors:

The products subject to this investigation are flat rolled aluminium products, whether or not alloyed, whether or not further worked than flat rolled, of a thickness from 0.03 mm to more than 6 mm. The material can be delivered in the form of (1) sheets, (2) coils, (3) coiled strips, (4) circles or (5) plates, Excluded are beverage canstock, bodypanels for the automotive 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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