

# Press release

## Definitive Anti-Dumping duties on Indonesia, China and Taiwan stainless steel imports a necessary measure

### Key messages

- The Commission has imposed definitive measures on imports of stainless steel hot rolled sheets and coils from China, Indonesia and Taiwan.
- The measure largely confirms the provisional measures already in place.
- The EU has not imposed duties to the full extent possible – the Commission must apply, without hesitation or delay, the robust trade enforcement regime as justified by the recent modernised Trade Defence Instruments.

### Main body of press release

**Brussels, 07 October 2020 – The European Commission today published definitive anti-dumping duties on imports of certain hot rolled stainless steel sheets and coils (SSHR) originating in Indonesia, the People’s Republic of China and Taiwan (Regulation 2020/1408).**

The European Steel Association (EUROFER) welcomes the measure as a first step towards restoring a level playing field and securing a sustainable future for the European stainless industry, but says the Commission must apply trade enforcement rules in full, given the spirit and intention of the revised EU trade defence instruments adopted by the European Parliament and the Council in 2018.

The European Commission Implementing Regulation largely confirms existing provisional measures and imposes definitive anti-dumping duty rates of 17.3% on SSHR imports from Indonesia, up to 19% on imports from China, and up to 7.5% on imports from Taiwan. The investigation leading up to these measures was initiated in August 2019 following a complaint submitted by EUROFER.

“Although the Commission’s investigation clearly established that significant distortions on raw materials with regard to the product concerned exist in China and Indonesia, the Commission has failed to lift the so-called Lesser Duty Rule, and imposed final anti-dumping duties at the lower level of the injury margins”, said Axel Eggert, Director General of EUROFER. “However, the dumping margins range from 17.7% to 106.5% for Chinese and Indonesian producers, so the effect of massive distortions has been ignored”.

Mr Eggert added, “Indonesia, China and Taiwan have a structural overcapacity problem. Their dumping has seriously harmed European stainless steel producers. The decision not to disapply the Lesser Duty Rule and actually implement the principles of the EU’s recently revised trade enforcement rules strains credulity”.

The EU’s Trade Defence Instruments (TDI) were only revised two years ago after a half-decade long process. Robust TDIs ensure that the EU can defend industry and citizens against dumping and harmful trade-distorting practices.

“Proportionate remedial duties are crucial if the stainless steel industry is to recover from the effects of dumping. However, the European Commission has failed to fully apply the revised TDI rules. They must do so without inhibition if they want to effectively tackle third country trade distortions and save EU industry and the jobs it supports,” emphasised Mr Eggert.

“The recently opened investigation into imports of stainless steel cold rolled flat products originating in Indonesia and India will be another opportunity to enforce trade rules properly and send the right signal to third country producers and their governments that deliberately ignore WTO rules and continue to build up excess capacity”, concluded Mr Eggert.

Now that definitive measures have been imposed – albeit at a level far below what they could and should have been – EUROFER calls on the Commission to remain vigilant with regard to any attempts by Indonesian, Chinese and Taiwanese exporters to engage in circumvention or absorption.

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## Notes for editors

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### About the European Steel Association (EUROFER)

EUROFER AISBL is located in Brussels and was founded in 1976. It represents the entirety of steel production in the European Union. EUROFER members are steel companies and national steel federations throughout the EU. The major steel companies and national steel federations in Switzerland and Turkey are associate members.

The European Steel Association is recorded in the EU transparency register: 93038071152-83.

### About the European steel industry

The European steel industry is a world leader in innovation and environmental sustainability. It has a turnover of around €170 billion and directly employs 330,000 highly-skilled people, producing on average 160 million tonnes of steel per year. More than 500 steel production sites across 22 EU Member States provide direct and indirect employment to millions more European citizens. Closely integrated with Europe's manufacturing and construction industries, steel is the backbone for development, growth and employment in Europe.

Steel is the most versatile industrial material in the world. The thousands of different grades and types of steel developed by the industry make the modern world possible. Steel is 100% recyclable and therefore is a fundamental part of the circular economy. As a basic engineering material, steel is also an essential factor in the development and deployment of innovative, CO2-mitigating technologies, improving resource efficiency and fostering sustainable development in Europe.