

Press release

EUROFER welcomes the imposition of anti-subsidy duties on SSCR from India and Indonesia

Brussels, DATE March 2022 – EUROFER welcomes the publication of the European Commission implementing regulation imposing definitive anti-subsidy measures on imports of stainless steel cold-rolled flat products (SSCR) originating in India and Indonesia. These measures are an important step forward in implementing the EU policy objectives for fair and free trade.

“The European Commission’s decision is a landmark achievement, as it ensures a level playing field for the EU stainless industry, and it is also fundamental in implementing the EU commitments towards sustainable and balanced trade”, said Axel Eggert, Director General of the European Steel Association (EUROFER).

The proceeding was initiated on 17 February 2021, following a complaint submitted by EUROFER. Its conclusions come after significant efforts by both the industry and the Commission to address major raw materials distortions in stainless steel resulting from state interventions in Eastern Asian countries.

These behaviours have granted undue competitive advantages to exporting producers on the EU market and created massive non-market overcapacities. At the same time, it should also be highlighted that the Sino-Indonesian capacities - 100% export-oriented - are relying on production processes which result in CO2 emissions that are around four times higher than Europe’s low carbon stainless steel production.

The Commission’s measures also consolidate the new course of the EU trade action in addressing China’s behaviour by tackling the support it grants to domestic companies along the Belt and Road Initiative. The Indonesian stainless steel industry is a prime example of the export of Chinese capacities to other countries: Indonesia went from zero stainless steel production in 2017 to the second worldwide capacities in 2022. Similar extensions of capacities have also occurred in India.

“Given the linkages between Indian and Indonesian exporting companies, it is essential that the European Commission remains vigilant with regard to any attempts to circumvent or absorb these measures”, concluded Mr Eggert.

Notes for editors

About stainless steel

Stainless steel cold-rolled flat (SSCR) products are used by a variety of consumer industries, and in a wide range of final applications where resistance to both atmospheric and chemical corrosion is necessary, and where hygiene and surface aesthetic characteristics (brilliance, surface coating and/or decoration) may also be essential. SSCR market and applications are highly diversified, justifying a broad definition of the product, covering most applications. Examples of SSCR products' uses include:

- Car manufacturing: exhaust systems, decoration, safety, structural components
- Equipment for chemicals: petrochemicals, paper making, food processing, pharmaceutical industry
- Domestic appliances, kitchen utensils, tableware and cutlery
- Structural and decorative elements in construction applications

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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 the United Kingdom 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.