

# Press release

## New EU anti-dumping investigation on Chinese tinplate is crucial step to restore level playing field for European steelmakers, welcomes EUROFER

**Brussels, 16 May 2024 – The initiation of a new anti-dumping investigation on imports of tinplated steel products from China announced today by the European Commission is an important step towards restoring a level playing field for the EU producers, says the European Steel Association welcoming the opening of the procedure.**

“Chinese mills have been flooding the EU market for at least the past four years with their overcapacities of tinplate at dumped prices, putting immense pressure on EU producers that were forced to reduce their prices regardless of the evolution of costs”, said Axel Eggert, Director General of the European Steel Association (EUROFER). “As steel is at the core of many value chains, the impact of dumped steel products from third countries is not only a problem for our sector but is systemic for the wider EU economy and employment”, he warned.

The influx of cheap tinplate imports from China had serious repercussions on EU tinplate producers. In particular, besides squeezing profit margins, it also resulted in reduced production volumes, capacity utilisation, and market share, therefore causing severe injury to EU steelmakers. The EU industry lost a quarter of its sales volume from 2021 to 2023, whereas the market share of EU consumption taken by Chinese imports more than doubled in the same period.

The timely opening of an anti-dumping investigation by the European Commission is an indispensable first step to help restore a level playing field for the EU tinplate industry, as well as to preserve thousands of jobs in the EU tinplate industry across Europe and ensure a long-term and reliable source of tinplate supply to entire value chains.

“Maintaining and developing further the European tinplate industry is key for downstream sectors, which need a healthy steel industry that can continue to supply tinplate with innovative and environmentally responsible production processes. We expect the Commission to take appropriate measures following the opening of this investigation”, concluded Mr. Eggert.

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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 full members are steel companies and national steel federations throughout the EU. The major steel companies and national steel federations in Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom are 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 €191 billion and directly employs around 303,000 highly-skilled people, producing on average 140 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.