

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Trade Defence modernisation: Metals industry welcomes negotiations closure

Brussels, 6 December 2017 – After four years of discussion, EU institutions yesterday reached an agreement on measures to modernise Europe’s trade defence instruments. On balance, the European non-ferrous metals association (Eurometaux) welcomes the EU’s closure of negotiations and efforts to tackle unfair trading practices.

Guy Thiran, Eurometaux’s Director General, stated: ‘**We commend EU institutions for reaching a long-awaited agreement on trade defence modernisation. Overall the new measures will strengthen Europe’s anti-dumping and anti-subsidy instruments for Europe’s non-ferrous metals industry – although we concede the final package is not as ambitious as we originally hoped**’

Of particular support, the European Commission will now be able to waive the “Lesser Duty Rule” for imports impacted by raw materials distortions, instead setting duties at the full dumping margin rate. However, it is regrettable that the 17% threshold for applying this waiver would not apply to collective distortions. The three-week pre-disclosure period could also give importers too much advance warning for reacting to decisions and avoiding their consequences.

Europe’s non-ferrous metals industry relies on effective anti-dumping & anti-subsidy instruments, and faces a looming threat from Chinese market distortions. A [2017 study](#) confirmed that Chinese governmental interventions have triggered massive overcapacities in several metals sectors, including aluminium, lead, tin and tungsten. Robust EU trade defence mechanisms are required to guarantee fair competition for European metals producers on the global market.

Guy Thiran continued: “**We are pleased EU institutions have succeeded in closing 2017 with political agreements on both trade defence modernisation and the new anti-dumping methodology. In 2018, we commit to working with the European Commission to make sure both packages deliver on their promise to tackle unfair trade practices and support European manufacturers. All institutions should formally adopt both deals as soon as possible**”

ABOUT EUROMETAUX

Eurometaux is the decisive voice of non-ferrous metals producers and recyclers in Europe. With 500,000 employees and an annual turnover of €120bn, our members represent an essential industry for European society that businesses in almost every sector depend on. Together, we are leading Europe towards a more circular future through the endlessly recyclable potential of metals.

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