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#### Notice of initiation of an anti-subsidy proceeding concerning imports of biodiesel originating in Argentina and Indonesia

(2012/C 342/03)

The European Commission ('the Commission') has received a complaint pursuant to Article 10 of Council Regulation (EC) No 597/2009 of 11 June 2009 on protection against subsidised imports from countries not members of the European Community (<sup>1</sup>) ('the basic Regulation'), alleging that imports of biodiesel, originating in Argentina and Indonesia, are being subsidised and are thereby causing material injury to the Union industry.

## 1. Complaint

The complaint was lodged on 27 September 2012 by the European Biodiesel Board ('the complainant') on behalf of producers representing more than 25 % of the total Union production of biodiesel.

## 2. Product under investigation

The product subject to this investigation is fatty-acid monoalkyl esters and/or paraffinic gasoils obtained from synthesis and/or hydro-treatment, of non-fossil origin, in pure form or as included in a blend ('the product under investigation').

#### 3. Allegation of subsidisation

The product allegedly being subsidised is the product under investigation, originating in Argentina and Indonesia ('the countries concerned'), currently falling within CN codes ex 1516 20 98, ex 1518 00 91, ex 1518 00 95, ex 1518 00 99, ex 2710 19 43, ex 2710 19 46, ex 2710 19 47, 2710 20 11, 2710 20 15, 2710 20 17, ex 3824 90 97, 3826 00 10 and ex 3826 00 90. These CN codes are given for information only.

It is alleged that the producers of the product concerned from Argentina and Indonesia have benefited from subsidies granted by the Governments of Argentina and Indonesia.

The subsidies consist of the provision of inputs (soybean or soybean oil in case of Argentina and palm oil in case of Indonesia whether refined or unrefined) at below-market prices by means of government policies implemented and enforced by a policy of export taxes. In both countries concerned an export tax is charged on the input product(s), at rate(s) which is/are often higher than that charged on the export of biodiesel. This approach effectively obliges the input producers to sell on the domestic market, thus creating an excess of supply, depressing prices to a below-market level and artificially reducing the costs of the biodiesel producers.

It is alleged that the above schemes are subsidies since they involve a financial contribution from the Government of Argentina and Indonesia (in the form of the entrustment and/or direction of the input producers to provide goods to the domestic biodiesel industry, or through income or price support) and confer a benefit to the recipients because the goods are provided for less than adequate remuneration. They are alleged to be limited to certain enterprises producing a subset of products in the agricultural sector, and are therefore specific and countervailable.

#### 4. Allegation of injury and causation

The complainant has provided evidence that imports of the product under investigation from the countries concerned have increased overall both in absolute terms and in terms of market share.

The prima facie evidence provided by the complainant shows that the volume and the prices of the imported product under investigation have had, among other consequences, a negative impact on the level of prices charged and the market share held by the Union industry, resulting in substantial adverse effects on the overall performance and the financial situation of the Union industry.

## 5. Procedure

Having determined, after consulting the Advisory Committee, that the complaint has been lodged by or on behalf of the Union industry and that there is sufficient evidence to justify the initiation of a proceeding, the Commission hereby initiates an investigation pursuant to Article 10 of the basic Regulation.

The investigation will determine whether the product under investigation originating in the countries concerned is being subsidised and whether these subsidised imports have caused injury to the Union industry. If the conclusions are affirmative, the investigation will examine whether the imposition of measures would not be against the Union interest.

The Government of Argentina and Indonesia has been invited for consultations.

## 5.1. Procedure for the determination of subsidisation

Exporting producers (<sup>2</sup>) of the product under investigation from the countries concerned and the authorities of the countries concerned are invited to participate in the Commission investigation.

5.1.1. Investigating exporting producers

- 5.1.1.1. Procedure for selecting exporting producers to be investigated in the countries concerned
- (a) Sampling

In view of the potentially large number of exporting producers in the country(ies) concerned involved in this

<sup>(&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>) OJ L 188, 18.7.2009, p. 93.

<sup>(2)</sup> An exporting producer is any company in the countries concerned which produces and exports the product under investigation to the Union market, either directly or via a third party, including any of its related companies involved in the production, domestic sales or exports of the product under investigation.

proceeding and in order to complete the investigation within the statutory time limits, the Commission may limit the exporting producers to be investigated to a reasonable number by selecting a sample (this process is also referred to as 'sampling'). The sampling will be carried out in accordance with Article 27 of the basic Regulation (<sup>1</sup>).

In order to enable the Commission to decide whether sampling is necessary, and if so, to select a sample, all exporting producers, or representatives acting on their behalf, are hereby requested to make themselves known to the Commission. These parties have to do so within 15 days of the date of publication of this notice in the Official Journal of the European Union, unless otherwise specified, by providing the Commission with information on their company(ies) requested in Annex A to this notice.

In order to obtain information it deems necessary for the selection of the sample of exporting producers, the Commission will also contact the authorities of the countries concerned and may contact any known associations of exporting producers.

All interested parties wishing to submit any other relevant information regarding the selection of the sample, excluding the information requested above, must do so within 21 days of the publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Union*, unless otherwise specified.

If a sample is necessary, the exporting producers may be selected based on the largest representative volume of exports to the Union which can reasonably be investigated within the time available. All known exporting producers, the authorities of the countries concerned and associations of exporting producers will be notified by the Commission, via the authorities of the countries concerned if appropriate, of the companies selected to be in the sample.

In order to obtain information it deems necessary for its investigation with regard to exporting producers, the Commission will send questionnaires to the exporting producers selected to be in the sample, to any known association of exporting producers, and to the authorities of the countries concerned.

All exporting producers, selected to be in the sample, and the authorities of the countries concerned will have to submit a completed questionnaire within 37 days from the date of notification of the sample selection, unless otherwise specified.

The questionnaire for exporting producers will request information on, inter alia, the structure of the exporting producer's company(ies), the activities of the company(ies) in relation to the product under investigation, the total sales of the company(ies) and of the product under investigation and the amount of financial contribution and benefit from the alleged subsidies or subsidy programmes.

The questionnaire for the authorities will request information on, inter alia, the alleged subsidies or subsidy programme(s), the authorities responsible for their operation, the manner and functioning of such operation, the legal basis, the eligibility criteria and other terms and conditions, the recipients and the amount of financial contribution and benefit conferred.

Without prejudice to the application of Article 28 of the basic Regulation companies that have agreed to their possible inclusion in the sample but are not selected to be in the sample will be considered to be cooperating ('non-sampled cooperating exporting producers'). Without prejudice to section (b) below, the countervailing duty that may be applied to imports from non-sampled cooperating exporting producers will not exceed the weighted average margin of subsidisation established for the exporting producers in the sample (<sup>2</sup>).

(b) Individual subsidy margin for companies not included in the sample

Non-sampled cooperating exporting producers may request, pursuant to Article 27(3) of the basic Regulation, that the Commission establish their individual subsidy margins. The exporting producers wishing to claim an individual subsidy margin must request a questionnaire and return it duly completed within 37 days of the date of notification of the sample selection, unless otherwise specified.

However, exporting producers claiming an individual subsidy margin should be aware that the Commission may nonetheless decide not to determine their individual subsidy margin if, for instance, the number of exporting producers is so large that such determination would be unduly burdensome and would prevent the timely completion of the investigation.

<sup>(1)</sup> This sampling exercise is without prejudice to the possibility of the Commission ultimately conducting the investigation on an aggregate basis and allocating any subsidy on a uniform basis.

<sup>(2)</sup> Pursuant to Article 15(3) of the basic Regulation, any zero and *de minimis* amounts of countervailable subsidies and amounts of countervailable subsidies established in the circumstances referred to in Article 28 of the basic Regulation shall be disregarded.

## 5.1.2. Investigating unrelated importers (1) (2)

Unrelated importers of the product under investigation from the countries concerned to the Union are invited to participate in this investigation.

In view of the potentially large number of unrelated importers involved in this proceeding and in order to complete the investigation within the statutory time limits, the Commission may limit to a reasonable number the unrelated importers that will be investigated by selecting a sample (this process is also referred to as 'sampling'). The sampling will be carried out in accordance with Article 27 of the basic Regulation.

In order to enable the Commission to decide whether sampling is necessary and, if so, to select a sample, all unrelated importers, or representatives acting on their behalf, are hereby requested to make themselves known to the Commission. These parties must do so within 15 days of the date of publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Union*, unless otherwise specified, by providing the Commission with the information on their company(ies) requested in Annex B to this notice.

In order to obtain information it deems necessary for the selection of the sample of unrelated importers, the Commission may also contact any known associations of importers.

All interested parties wishing to submit any other relevant information regarding the selection of the sample, excluding the information requested above, must do so within 21 days of the publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Union*, unless otherwise specified.

If a sample is necessary, the importers may be selected based on the largest representative volume of sales of the product under investigation in the Union which can reasonably be investigated within the time available. All known unrelated importers and associations of importers will be notified by the Commission of the companies selected to be in the sample.

In order to obtain information it deems necessary for its investigation, the Commission will send questionnaires to the sampled unrelated importers and to any known association of importers. These parties must submit a completed questionnaire within 37 days from the date of the notification of the sample selection, unless otherwise specified.

The questionnaire will request information on, *inter alia*, the structure of their company(ies), the activities of the company(ies) in relation to the product under investigation and the sales of the product under investigation.

#### 5.1.3. Investigating suppliers

Since it is alleged that the subsidy is being provided to the biodiesel industry by or through private bodies, in this case suppliers (input producers) of soybeans or soybean oil in the case of Argentina and suppliers of palm oil (whether refined or unrefined) in the case of Indonesia, these suppliers are invited to participate in this investigation.

In order to obtain information it deems necessary for its investigation, the Commission intends to send questionnaires to suppliers and to any known association of suppliers. The sampling provisions described under paragraph 5.1.1.1(a) above will apply for these suppliers as well.

## 5.2. Procedure for the determination of injury and investigating Union producers

A determination of injury is based on positive evidence and involves an objective examination of the volume of the subsidised imports, their effect on prices on the Union market and the consequent impact of those imports on the Union industry. In order to establish whether the Union industry is materially injured, Union producers of the product under investigation are invited to participate in the Commission investigation.

#### 5.2.1. Investigating Union producers

In view of the large number of Union producers involved in this proceeding and in order to complete the investigation within the statutory time limits, the Commission has decided to limit to a reasonable number the Union producers that will be investigated by selecting a sample (this process is also referred to as 'sampling'). The sampling is carried out in accordance with Article 27 of the basic Regulation.

The Commission has provisionally selected a sample of Union producers. Details can be found in the file for inspection by interested parties. Interested parties are hereby invited to consult

<sup>(1)</sup> Only importers not related to exporting producers can be sampled. Importers that are related to exporting producers have to fill in Annex 1 to the questionnaire for these exporting producers. In accordance with Article 143 of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2454/93 concerning the implementation of the Community Customs Code, persons shall be deemed to be related only if: (a) they are officers or directors of one another's businesses; (b) they are legally recognized partners in business; (c) they are employer and employee; (d) any person directly or indirectly owns, controls or holds 5 % or more of the outstanding voting stock or shares of both of them; (e) one of them directly or indirectly controls the other; (f) both of them are directly or indirectly controlled by a third person; (g) together they directly or indirectly control a third person; or (h) they are members of the same family. Persons shall be deemed to be members of the same family only if they stand in any of the following relationships to one another: (i) husband and wife, (ii) parent and child, (iii) brother and sister (whether by whole or half blood), (iv) grandparent and grandchild, (v) uncle or aunt and nephew or niece, (vi) parent-in-law and son-in-law or daughter-inlaw, (vii) brother-in-law and sister-in-law (OJ L 253, 11.10.1993, p. 1). In this context 'person' means any natural or legal person

<sup>(2)</sup> The data provided by unrelated importers may also be used in relation to aspects of this investigation other than the determination of subsidisation.

the file (for this they should contact the Commission using the contact details provided in section 5.6 below). Other Union producers, or representatives acting on their behalf, that consider that there are reasons why they should be included in the sample must contact the Commission within 15 days of the date of publication of this notice in the Official Journal of the European Union. All interested parties wishing to submit any other relevant information regarding the selection of this notice in the Official Journal of the sample must do so within 21 days of the publication of this notice in the Official Journal of the submit any other relevant information regarding the selection of this notice in the Official Journal of the European Union, unless otherwise specified.

All known Union producers and/or associations of Union producers will be notified by the Commission of the companies finally selected to be in the sample.

In order to obtain information it deems necessary for its investigation, the Commission will send questionnaires to the sampled Union producers and to any known association of Union producers. These parties must submit a completed questionnaire within 37 days from the date of the notification of the sample selection, unless otherwise specified.

The questionnaire will request information on, *inter alia*, the structure of their company(ies) and the financial and economic situation of the company(ies).

#### 5.3. Procedure for the assessment of Union interest

Should the existence of subsidisation and injury caused thereby be established, a decision will be reached, pursuant to Article 31 of the basic Regulation, as to whether the adoption of antisubsidy measures would not be against the Union interest. Union producers, importers and their representative associations, users and their representative associations, and representative consumer organisations are invited to make themselves known within 15 days of the date of publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Union*, unless otherwise specified. In order to participate in the investigation, the representative consumer organisations have to demonstrate, within the same deadline, that there is an objective link between their activities and the product under investigation.

Parties that make themselves known within the above deadline may provide the Commission with information on the Union interest within 37 days of the date of publication of this notice in the Official Journal of the European Union, unless otherwise specified. This information may be provided either in a free format or by completing a questionnaire prepared by the Commission. In any case, information submitted pursuant to Article 31 will only be taken into account if supported by factual evidence at the time of submission.

## 5.4. Other written submissions

Subject to the provisions of this notice, all interested parties are hereby invited to make their views known, submit information

and provide supporting evidence. Unless otherwise specified, this information and supporting evidence must reach the Commission within 37 days of the date of publication of this notice in the Official Journal of the European Union.

# 5.5. Possibility to be heard by the Commission investigation services

All interested parties may request to be heard by the Commission investigation services. Any request to be heard should be made in writing and should specify the reasons for the request. For hearings on issues pertaining to the initial stage of the investigation the request must be submitted within 15 days of the date of publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Union*. Thereafter, a request to be heard must be submitted within the specific deadlines set by the Commission in its communication with the parties.

# 5.6. Instructions for making written submissions and sending completed questionnaires and correspondence

All written submissions, including the information requested in this notice, completed questionnaires and correspondence provided by interested parties for which confidential treatment is requested shall be labelled 'Limited' (<sup>1</sup>).

Interested parties providing 'Limited' information are required to furnish non-confidential summaries of it pursuant to Article 29(2) of the basic Regulation, which will be labelled 'For inspection by interested parties'. These summaries should be sufficiently detailed to permit a reasonable understanding of the substance of the information submitted in confidence. If an interested party providing confidential information does not furnish a non-confidential summary of it in the requested format and quality, such confidential information may be disregarded.

Interested parties are required to make all submissions and requests in electronic format (non-confidential submissions via e-mail, confidential ones on CD-R/DVD), and must indicate the name, address, e-mail address, telephone and fax numbers of the interested party. However, any Powers of Attorney, signed certifications, and any updates thereof, accompanying questionnaire replies must be submitted on paper, i.e. by post or by hand, at the address below. If an interested party cannot provide its submissions and requests in electronic format, it must immediately contact the Commission in compliance with Article 28(2) of the basic Regulation. For further information concerning correspondence with the Commission, interested parties may consult the relevant web page on the website of the Directorate-General for Trade: http://ec.europa. eu/trade/tackling-unfair-trade/trade-defence

<sup>(1)</sup> A 'Limited' document is a document which is considered confidential pursuant to Article 29 of Council Regulation (EC) No 597/2009 (OJ L 188, 18.7.2009, p. 93) and Article 12 of the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures. It is also a document protected pursuant to Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43).

Commission address for correspondence:

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European Commission Directorate-General for Trade Directorate H Office: N105 08/020 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel BELGIQUE/BELGIË

Fax +32 22993704 E-mail: TRADE-AS595-BIODIESEL-SUBSIDY@EC.EUROPA.EU

#### 6. Non-cooperation

In cases where any interested party refuses access to or does not provide the necessary information within the time limits, or significantly impedes the investigation, provisional or final findings, affirmative or negative, may be made on the basis of facts available, in accordance with Article 28 of the basic Regulation.

Where it is found that any interested party has supplied false or misleading information, the information may be disregarded and use may be made of facts available.

If an interested party does not cooperate or cooperates only partially and findings are therefore based on facts available in accordance with Article 28 of the basic Regulation, the result may be less favourable to that party than if it had cooperated.

## 7. Hearing Officer

Interested parties may request the intervention of the Hearing Officer for the Directorate-General for Trade. The Hearing Officer acts as an interface between the interested parties and the Commission investigation services. The Hearing Officer reviews requests for access to the file, disputes regarding the confidentiality of documents, requests for extension of time limits and requests by third parties to be heard. The Hearing Officer may organise a hearing with an individual interested party and mediate to ensure that the interested parties' rights of defence are being fully exercised. A request for a hearing with the Hearing Officer should be made in writing and should specify the reasons for the request. For hearings on issues pertaining to the initial stage of the investigation the request must be submitted within 15 days of the date of publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Union*. Thereafter, a request to be heard must be submitted within specific deadlines set by the Commission in its communication with the parties.

The Hearing Officer will also provide opportunities for a hearing involving parties to take place which would allow different views to be presented and rebuttal arguments offered on issues pertaining, among other things, to subsidisation, injury, causal link and Union interest. Such a hearing would, as a rule, take place at the latest at the end of the fourth week following the disclosure of provisional findings.

For further information and contact details interested parties may consult the Hearing Officer's web pages on DG Trade's website: http://ec.europa.eu/trade/tackling-unfair-trade/hearingofficer/index\_en.htm

#### 8. Schedule of the investigation

The investigation will be concluded, pursuant to Article 11(9) of the basic Regulation within 13 months of the date of the publication of this notice in the Official Journal of the European Union. In accordance with Article 12(1) of the basic Regulation, provisional measures may be imposed no later than nine months from the publication of this notice in the Official Journal of the European Union.

## 9. Processing of personal data

Any personal data collected in this investigation will be treated in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data (<sup>1</sup>).

#### ANNEX A

'Limited' version ( <sup>1</sup> )
Version 'for inspection by interested parties'
(tick the appropriate box)

## ANTI-SUBSIDY PROCEEDING CONCERNING IMPORTS OF BIODIESEL ORIGINATING IN ARGENTINA AND INDONESIA

INFORMATION FOR THE SELECTION OF THE SAMPLE OF EXPORTING PRODUCERS IN ARGENTINA AND INDONESIA

This form is designed to assist exporting producers in Argentina and Indonesia in responding to the request for sampling information made in point 5.1.1.1(a) of the notice of initiation.

Both the 'Limited' version and the version 'For inspection by interested parties' should be returned to the Commission as set out in the notice of initiation.

#### 1. IDENTITY AND CONTACT DETAILS

Supply the following details about your company:

Company name	
Address	
Contact person	
E-mail address	
Telephone	
Fax	

#### 2. TURNOVER AND SALES VOLUME

Indicate the turnover in the accounting currency of the company during the period from 1 July 2011 till 30 June 2012 for sales (export sales to the Union for each of the 27 Member States (<sup>2</sup>) separately and in total, domestic sales and export sales to countries other than Member States of the Union separately and in total) of biodiesel as defined in the notice of initiation and the corresponding weight or volume. State the currency used.

	Specify the unit of measurement and state whether in pure form or in a blend. If in a blend, specify the blend, e.g. B90 is a 90 % biodiesel and 10 % mineral diesel	Value in accounting currency Specify the currency used
Export sales to the Union, for each of the 27 Member States separately and in total, of the	Total	
product under investigation, manufactured by your company	Name each Member State ( <sup>3</sup> )	
Domestic sales of the product under investigation, manufactured by your company		
Purchases (in volume and value of soybean/palm oil (or next upstream product) from related and unrelated suppliers, broken down between domestic and foreign.		

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<sup>(2)</sup> The 27 Member States of the European Union are: Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

 $<sup>(^{3})</sup>$  Add additional rows where necessary.

#### 3. ACTIVITIES OF YOUR COMPANY AND RELATED COMPANIES (1)

Give details of the precise activities of the company and all related companies (please list them and state the relationship to your company) involved in the production and/or selling (export and/or domestic) of the product under investigation. Such activities could include but are not limited to purchasing the product under investigation or producing it under sub-contracting arrangements, or processing or trading the product under investigation.

Company name and location	Activities	Relationship

#### 4. OTHER INFORMATION

Please provide any other relevant information which the company considers useful to assist the Commission in the selection of the sample.

#### 5. INDIVIDUAL SUBSIDY MARGIN

The company declares that, in the event that it is not selected to be in the sample, it would like to receive a questionnaire and other claim forms in order to fill these in and thus claim an individual subsidy margin in accordance with section 5.1.1.1(b) of the notice of initiation.

Yes	🗖 No
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#### 6. CERTIFICATION

By providing the above information, the company agrees to its possible inclusion in the sample. If the company is selected to be part of the sample, this will involve completing a questionnaire and accepting a visit at its premises in order to verify its response. If the company indicates that it does not agree to its possible inclusion in the sample, it will be deemed not to have cooperated in the investigation. The Commission's findings for non-cooperating exporting producers are based on facts available and the result may be less favourable to that company than if it had cooperated.

Signature of authorised official:

Name and title of authorised official:

Date:

<sup>(&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>) In accordance with Article 143 of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2454/93 concerning the implementation of the Community Customs Code, persons shall be deemed to be related only if: (a) they are officers or directors of one another's businesses; (b) they are legally recognized partners in business; (c) they are employer and employee; (d) any person directly or indirectly owns, controls or holds 5% or more of the outstanding voting stock or shares of both of them; (e) one of them directly or indirectly controls the other; (f) both of them are directly or indirectly controls by a third person; (g) together they directly or indirectly control a third person; or (h) they are members of the same family. Persons shall be deemed to be members of the same family only if they stand in any of the following relationships to one another: (i) husband and wife, (ii) parent and child, (iii) brother and sister (whether by whole or half blood), (iv) grandparent and grandchild, (v) uncle or aunt and nephew or nice, (vi) parent-in-law and son-in-law or daughter-in-law, (vii) brother-in-law and sister-in-law. (OJ L 253, 11.10.1993, p. 1). In this context 'person' means any natural or legal person.

#### ANNEX B

'Limited' version (1)
Version 'for inspection by interested parties'
(tick the appropriate box)

## ANTI-SUBSIDY PROCEEDING CONCERNING IMPORTS OF BIODIESEL ORIGINATING IN ARGENTINA AND INDONESIA

#### INFORMATION FOR THE SELECTION OF THE SAMPLE OF UNRELATED IMPORTERS

This form is designed to assist unrelated importers in responding to the request for sampling information made in point 5.1.2 of the notice of initiation.

Both the 'Limited' version and the version 'For inspection by interested parties' should be returned to the Commission as set out in the notice of initiation.

#### 1. IDENTITY AND CONTACT DETAILS

Supply the following details about your company:

Company name	
Address	
Contact person	
E-mail address	
Telephone	
Fax	

#### 2. TURNOVER AND SALES VOLUME

Indicate the total turnover in euros (EUR) of the company, and the turnover and weight or volume for imports into the Union (<sup>2</sup>) and resales on the Union market after importation from Argentina and Indonesia, during the period from 1 July 2011 till 30 June 2012, of biodiesel as defined in the notice of initiation and the corresponding weight or volume.

	Specify the unit of measurement	Value in euros (EUR)
Total turnover of your company in euros (EUR)		
Imports of the product under investigation into the Union: state whether in pure form or in a blend. If in a blend, specify the blend, e.g. B90 is 90 % biodiesel and 10 % mineral diesel		
Resales on the Union market after importation from Argentina and Indonesia of the product under investigation		

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<sup>(&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>) The 27 Member States of the European Union are: Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

#### 3. ACTIVITIES OF YOUR COMPANY AND RELATED COMPANIES (1)

Give details of the precise activities of the company and all related companies (please list them and state the relationship to your company) involved in the production and/or selling (export and/or domestic) of the product under investigation. Such activities could include, but are not limited to, purchasing the product under investigation or producing it under subcontracting arrangements, or processing or trading the product under investigation.

Company name and location	Activities	Relationship

#### 4. OTHER INFORMATION

Please provide any other relevant information which the company considers useful to assist the Commission in the selection of the sample.

#### 5. CERTIFICATION

By providing the above information, the company agrees to its possible inclusion in the sample. If the company is selected to be part of the sample, this will involve completing a questionnaire and accepting a visit at its premises in order to verify its response. If the company indicates that it does not agree to its possible inclusion in the sample, it will be deemed not to have cooperated in the investigation. The Commission's findings for non-cooperating importers are based on the facts available and the result may be less favourable to that company than if it had cooperated.

Signature of authorised official:

Name and title of authorised official:

Date:

<sup>(1)</sup> In accordance with Article 143 of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2454/93 concerning the implementation of the Community Customs Code, persons shall be deemed to be related only if: (a) they are officers or directors of one another's businesses; (b) they are legally recognised partners in business; (c) they are employer and employee; (d) any person directly or indirectly owns, controls or holds 5 % or more of the outstanding voting stock or shares of both of them; (e) one of them directly or indirectly controls the other; (f) both of them are directly or indirectly controls by a third person; (g) together they directly or indirectly control a third person; or (h) they are members of the same family. Persons shall be deemed to be members of the same family only if they stand in any of the following relationships to one another: (i) husband and wife; (ii) parent and child; (iii) brother and sister (whether by whole or half blood); (iv) grandparent and grandchild; (v) uncle or aunt and nephew or nice; (vi) parent-in-law and son-in-law or daughter-in-law; (vii) brother-in-law and sister-in-law; (OJ L 253, 11.10.1993, p. 1). In this context, 'person' means any natural or legal person.