

**Notice of initiation of an anti-dumping proceeding concerning imports of certain welded tubes and pipes, of iron or non-alloy steel originating in the Czech Republic, Poland, Thailand, Turkey and Ukraine**

(2001/C 183/03)

The Commission has received a complaint pursuant to Article 5 of Council Regulation (EC) No 384/96 <sup>(1)</sup>, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2238/2000 <sup>(2)</sup> (the Basic Regulation), alleging that imports of certain welded tubes and pipes, of iron or non-alloy steel, originating in the Czech Republic, Poland, Thailand, Turkey and Ukraine ('countries concerned'), are being dumped and are thereby causing material injury to the Community industry.

### 1. Complaint

The complaint was lodged on 17 May 2001 by the Defence Committee of the Welded Steel Tube Industry of the European Union ('the complainant') on behalf of producers representing a major proportion, in this case more than 80 % of the total Community production of certain welded tubes and pipes, of iron or non-alloy steel.

### 2. Product

The product allegedly being dumped is welded tubes and pipes, of iron or non-alloy steel, of circular cross-section, threaded or threadable (gas pipes) and certain other welded tubes and pipes, of iron or non-alloy steel, of circular cross-section, of an external diameter not exceeding 168,3 mm originating in the Czech Republic, Poland, Thailand, Turkey and Ukraine ('the product concerned'), currently classifiable within CN codes 7306 30 51, 7306 30 59, ex 7306 30 71 and ex 7306 30 78. These CN codes are only given for information.

### 3. Allegation of dumping

The allegation of dumping in respect of the Czech Republic, Poland, Thailand and Turkey is based on a comparison of normal value established on the basis of domestic prices, with the export prices of the product concerned to the Community.

In view of the provisions of Article 2(7) of the Basic Regulation, the applicant established normal value for Ukraine on the basis of the price in an appropriate market economy country, which is mentioned in point 5(1)(d) of this notice. The allegation of dumping is based on a comparison of normal value, as set out above, with the export prices of the product concerned when sold for export to the Community.

On this basis, the dumping margins calculated are significant for all exporting countries concerned.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 56, 6.3.1996, p. 1.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 257, 11.10.2000, p. 2.

### 4. Allegation of injury

The complainant has provided evidence that imports of the product concerned from the Czech Republic, Poland, Thailand, Turkey and Ukraine have increased overall in absolute terms and in terms of market share.

It is alleged that the volumes and the prices of the imported product concerned have, among other consequences, had a negative impact on the market share held, the quantities sold and the level of prices charged by the Community industry, resulting in substantial adverse effects on the overall performance and the financial situation of the Community industry.

### 5. Procedure

Having determined, after consulting the Advisory Committee, that the complaint has been lodged by or on behalf of the Community industry and that there is sufficient evidence to justify the initiation of a proceeding, the Commission hereby initiates an investigation pursuant to Article 5 of the Basic Regulation.

#### 5.1. Procedure for the determination of dumping and injury

The investigation will determine whether the product concerned originating in the Czech Republic, Poland, Thailand, Turkey and Ukraine is being dumped and whether this dumping has caused injury.

##### (a) Sampling

In view of the apparent number of parties involved in this proceeding, the Commission may decide to apply sampling in accordance with Article 17 of the Basic Regulation.

##### (i) Sampling for exporters/producers in the Czech Republic, Poland, Thailand, Turkey and Ukraine

In order to enable the Commission to decide whether sampling is necessary and, if so, to select a sample, all exporters/producers, or representatives acting on their behalf, are hereby requested to make themselves known by contacting the Commission and providing the following information on their company or companies within the time limit set in point 6(b)(i) of this notice:

— name, address, e-mail address, telephone, and fax, and/or telex numbers and contact person,

- the turnover in local currency and the volume in tonnes of the product concerned sold for export to the Community during the period 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001,
  - if the company intends to claim an individual margin (individual margins can only be claimed by producers): for companies claiming an individual margin, the turnover in local currency and the sales volume in tonnes for the product concerned on the domestic market during the period 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001,
  - the precise activities of the company with regard to the production of the product concerned,
  - the names and the precise activities of all related companies <sup>(1)</sup> involved in the production and/or selling (export and/or domestic) of the product concerned,
  - any other relevant information that would assist the Commission in the selection of the sample,
  - an indication of whether the company or companies agree to their inclusion in the sample, which implies replying to a questionnaire and accepting an on-the-spot investigation of their response.
- the total turnover in euro of the company during the period 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001,
  - the total number of employees,
  - the precise activities of the company with regard to the product concerned,
  - the volume in kg and value in euro of imports into and resales made in the Community market during the period 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001, of the imported product concerned originating in the Czech Republic, Poland, Thailand, Turkey and Ukraine,
  - the names and the precise activities of all related companies <sup>(1)</sup> involved in the production and/or selling of the product concerned,
  - any other relevant information that would assist the Commission in the selection of the sample,
  - an indication of whether the company or companies agree to their inclusion in the sample, which implies replying to a questionnaire and accepting an on-the-spot investigation of their response.

In order to obtain the information it deems necessary for the selection of the sample of exporters/producers, the Commission will, in addition, contact the authorities of the exporting country, and any known associations of exporters/producers.

#### (ii) Sampling for importers

In order to enable the Commission to decide whether sampling is necessary and, if so, to select a sample, all importers, or representatives acting on their behalf, are hereby requested to make themselves known to the Commission and to provide the following information on their company or companies within the time limit set in point 6(b)(i) of this notice:

- name, address, e-mail address, telephone, and fax, and/or telex numbers and contact person,

In order to obtain the information it deems necessary for the selection of the sample of importers, the Commission will, in addition, contact any known associations of importers.

#### (iii) Final selection of the sample

All interested parties wishing to submit any relevant information regarding the selection of the samples must do so within the time limit set in point 6(b)(i) of this notice.

The Commission intends to make the final selection of the samples after having consulted the parties concerned that have expressed their willingness to be included in the sample.

Companies included in the samples must reply to a questionnaire within the time limit set in point 6(b)(ii) of this notice and must cooperate within the framework of the investigation.

If sufficient cooperation is not forthcoming, the Commission will base its findings, in accordance with Articles 17(4) and 18 of the Basic Regulation, on the facts available.

<sup>(1)</sup> For guidance on the meaning of related companies, please refer to Article 143(1) of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2454/93 concerning the implementation of the Community Customs Code (OJ L 253, 11.10.1993, p. 1).

**(b) Questionnaires**

In order to obtain the information it deems necessary for its investigation, the Commission will send questionnaires to the Community industry and to any association of producers in the Community, to the sampled exporters/producers, to any association of exporters/producers, to the sampled importers, to any association of importers named in the complaint, and to the authorities of the exporting countries concerned.

All such interested parties should contact the Commission forthwith by fax, but not later than the time limit set out in point 6(a)(i) of this notice, in order to find out whether they are listed in the complaint and, if necessary, request a questionnaire, given that the time limit set in point 6(a)(ii) of this notice applies to all such interested parties.

Exporters/producers claiming an individual margin, with a view to the application of Articles 17(3) and 9(6) of the Basic Regulation, must submit a completed questionnaire within the time limit set in point 6(a)(ii) of this notice. They therefore have to request a questionnaire within the time limit set in point 6(a)(i) of this notice. However, such parties should be aware that if sampling is applied to exporters/producers, the Commission may nonetheless decide not to calculate an individual margin, if the number of exporters/producers is so large that individual examination would be unduly burdensome and would prevent the timely completion of the investigation.

**(c) Collection of information and holding of hearings**

All interested parties are hereby invited to make their views known, submit information other than questionnaire replies and to provide supporting evidence. This information and supporting evidence has to reach the Commission within the time limit set in point 6(a)(ii) of this notice.

Furthermore, the Commission may hear interested parties, provided that they make a request showing that there are particular reasons why they should be heard. This request must be made within the time limit set in point 6(a)(iii).

**(d) Selection of the market economy country**

In accordance with Article 2(7)(a) of the Basic Regulation, it is envisaged to choose Turkey as an appropriate market economy country for the purpose of establishing normal value in respect of Ukraine. Interested parties are hereby invited to comment on the appropriateness of this choice within the specific time limit set in point 6(c) of this notice.

**(e) Market economy status**

For those exporters/producers in Ukraine who claim and provide sufficient evidence that they operate under market economy conditions, i.e. that they meet the criteria laid down in Article 2(7)(c) of the Basic Regulation, normal value will be determined in accordance with Article

2(7)(b) of the Basic Regulation. Exporters/producers intending to submit duly substantiated claims must do so within the specific time limit set in point 6(d) of this notice. The Commission will send claim forms to all exporters/producers in Ukraine who have requested an individual margin as well as to the authorities of Ukraine.

**5.2. Procedure for assessment of Community interest**

In accordance with Article 21 of the Basic Regulation and in the event that the allegations of dumping and injury caused thereby are substantiated, a decision will be reached as to whether the adoption of anti-dumping measures would not be against the Community interest. For this reason the Community industry, importers, their representative associations, representative users and representative consumer organisations, provided that they prove that there is an objective link between their activity and the product concerned, may, within the general time limits set in point 6(a)(ii) of this notice, make themselves known and provide the Commission with information. The parties which have acted in conformity with the precedent sentence may request a hearing, setting the particular reasons why they should be heard, within the time limit set in point 6(a)(iii). It should be noted that any information submitted pursuant to Article 21 will only be taken into account if supported by factual evidence at the time of submission.

**6. Time limits****(a) General time limits****(i) For parties to request a questionnaire and other claim forms**

All interested parties should request a questionnaire as soon as possible, but not later than 15 days after the publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

**(ii) For parties to make themselves known, to submit questionnaire replies and any other information**

All interested parties, if their representations are to be taken into account during the investigation, must make themselves known by contacting the Commission, present their views and submit questionnaire replies or any other information within 40 days of the date of publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*, unless otherwise specified.

Companies selected in a sample must submit questionnaire replies within the time limits specified in point 6(b)(ii) of this notice.

**(iii) Hearings**

All interested parties may also apply to be heard by the Commission within the same 40-day time limit.

(b) *Specific time limit in respect of sampling*

- (i) All information relevant for the selection of the sample should reach the Commission within 15 days of the date of publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*, given that the Commission intends to consult parties concerned that have expressed their willingness to be included therein on the final selection of the sample within a period of 21 days of the publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.
- (ii) The questionnaire replies from sampled parties must reach the Commission within 37 days from the date of the notification of their inclusion in the sample.

(c) *Specific time limit for the selection of the market economy country*

Parties to the investigation may wish to comment on the appropriateness of Turkey which, as mentioned in point 5(1)(d) of this notice, is envisaged as a market economy country for the purpose of establishing normal value in respect of Ukraine. These comments must reach the Commission within 10 days of the date of publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

(d) *Specific time limit for submission of claims for market economy status*

Duly substantiated claims for market economy status, as mentioned in point 5(1)(e) of this notice, must reach the Commission within 21 days of the date of the selection of any sample or as determined by the Commission.

**7. Written submissions, questionnaire replies and correspondence**

All submissions and requests made by interested parties must be made in writing (not in electronic format, unless otherwise

specified), and must indicate the name, address, e-mail address, telephone and fax, and/or telex numbers of the interested party.

Commission address for correspondence:

European Commission  
Directorate-General for Trade  
Directorates B and C  
TERV — 0/13  
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200  
B-1049 Brussels  
Fax (32-2) 295 65 05  
Telex COMEU B 21877.

**8. Non-cooperation**

In cases in which 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 in accordance with Article 18 of the Basic Regulation, on the basis of the facts available.

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

**9. Schedule of the investigation**

The investigation will be concluded, according to Article 6(9) of the Basic Regulation within 15 months of the date of the publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*. According to Article 7(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 Communities*.