

**Notice of initiation of an anti-dumping proceeding concerning imports of grain oriented flat-rolled products of silicon-electrical steel originating in the United States of America and Russia and of the initiation of an interim review of the anti-dumping duty on imports of certain grain oriented electrical sheets originating in Russia (also known as grain oriented cold-rolled sheets and strips of silicon-electrical steel with a width of more than 500 mm)**

(2004/C 144/02)

The Commission has received a complaint pursuant to Article 5 of Council Regulation (EC) No 384/96 <sup>(1)</sup> ('the basic Regulation'), alleging that imports of grain oriented flat-rolled products of silicon-electrical steel, originating in the United States of America and Russia ('the countries concerned'), are being dumped and are thereby causing material injury to the Community industry.

### 1. COMPLAINT

The complaint was lodged on 13 April 2004 by the European Confederation of Iron and Steel Industries (Eurofer) ('the complainant') on behalf of producers representing a major proportion, in this case more than 50 %, of the total Community production of grain oriented flat-rolled products of silicon-electrical steel.

### 2. PRODUCT

The product allegedly being dumped is grain oriented flat-rolled products of silicon-electrical steel originating in the United States of America and Russia ('the product concerned'), normally declared within CN codes 7225 1100 and 7226 1100. The product concerned includes both grain oriented flat-rolled products of silicon-electrical steel with a width of more than 500 mm and grain oriented flat-rolled products of silicon-electrical steel with a width not exceeding 500 mm. These CN codes are only given for information.

### 3. ALLEGATION OF DUMPING

The allegation of dumping in respect of the United States of America 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.

The allegation of dumping for Russia is based on a comparison of a constructed normal value with the export prices of the product concerned to the Community.

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

### 4. ALLEGATION OF INJURY

The complainant has provided evidence that imports of the product concerned from the United States of America and

Russia 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 and the quantities sold 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 United States of America and Russia is being dumped and whether this dumping has caused injury.

##### (a) 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 exporters/producers in the United States of America and Russia, to any association of exporters/producers, to the importers, to any association of importers named in the complaint and to the authorities of the exporting countries concerned.

In any event, all parties should contact the Commission forthwith by fax, but not later than the time limit set out in paragraph 6(a) 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 paragraph 6(b) of this notice applies to all such interested parties.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 56, 6.3.1996, p. 1, as last amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 461/2004 (OJ L 77, 13.3.2004, p. 12.)

(b) *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 have to reach the Commission within the time limit set in paragraph 6(b) 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 paragraph 6(c) of this notice.

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 time limits set in paragraph 6(b) 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 paragraph 6(c) of this notice. 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) *For parties to request a questionnaire*

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 Union*.

(b) *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 Union*, unless otherwise specified. Attention is drawn to the fact that the exercise of most procedural rights set out in the basic Regulation depends on the party's making itself known within the aforementioned period.

(c) *Hearings*

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

## 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). All written submissions, including the information requested in this notice, questionnaire replies and correspondence provided by interested parties on a confidential basis shall be labelled as 'Limited (1)' and, in accordance with Article 19(2) of the basic Regulation, shall be accompanied by a non-confidential version, which will be labelled 'For inspection by interested parties'.

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## 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. If an interested party does not cooperate or cooperates only partially, and findings are therefore based on facts available in accordance with Article 18 of the basic Regulation, the result may be less favourable to that party than if it had cooperated.

(1) This means that the document is for internal use only. It is 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). It is a confidential document pursuant to Article 19 of Council Regulation (EC) No 384/96 (OJ L 56, 6.3.1996 P.1) and Article 6 of the WTO Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the GATT 1994 (Anti-dumping Agreement).

#### 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 Union*. According to Article 7(1) of the basic Regulation, provisional measures may be imposed no later than 9 months from the publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

#### 10. REVIEW OF EXISTING MEASURES

By Council Regulation (EC) No 151/2003 <sup>(1)</sup> a definitive anti-dumping duty was imposed on imports of certain grain oriented electrical sheets originating in Russia, also known as grain oriented cold-rolled sheets and strips of silicon-electrical steel with a width of more than 500 mm and falling within CN codes 7225 11 00 (sheets of a width of 600 mm or more) and 7226 11 10 (sheets of a width of more than 500 mm but less than 600 mm) <sup>(2)</sup>.

Should it be determined that measures are to be imposed on grain oriented flat-rolled products of silicon-electrical steel originating in Russia in the proceeding initiated by the present notice, and thus cover grain oriented cold-rolled sheets and strips of silicon-electrical steel with a width of more than 500 mm, the continued imposition of the measures imposed by Council Regulation (EC) No 151/2003 will be no longer appropriate, and Regulation (EC) No 151/2003 would have to be amended or repealed accordingly. Therefore, an interim review should be opened as regards Regulation (EC) No 151/2003 in order to allow any amendment or repeal necessary in the light of the investigation initiated by the present notice.

Therefore, the Commission hereby initiates, pursuant to Article 11(3) of the basic Regulation, an interim review of Regulation (EC) No 151/2003. The provisions set out in points 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the notice, apply *mutatis mutandis* to this interim review.

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 25, 30.1.2003, p. 7.

<sup>(2)</sup> As of 1 January 2004, CN code 7226 11 10 has been replaced by CN code ex 7226 11 00.