8.7.2024

C/2024/4107

Action brought on 29 May 2024 - Nuctech Warsaw and Nuctech Netherlands v Commission

(Case T-284/24)

(C/2024/4107)

Language of the case: English

Parties

Applicants: Nuctech Warsaw Co. Ltd sp. z o.o. (Warszawa, Poland), Nuctech Netherlands BV (Rotterdam, Netherlands) (represented by: J.-F. Bellis, S. Ross, lawyers)

Defendant: European Commission

Form of order sought

The applicants claim that the Court should:

- annul the Commission Decision of 16 April 2024 requiring an undertaking active in the threat detection systems sector to submit to inspections pursuant to Article 14(3) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560 of the European Parliament and of the Council (1) (in the context of Case FS.100068 - MARE), together with any subsequent act or request by the Commission and legal hold requests, including the information request concerning data stored in the People's Republic of China;
- order the Commission to bear the costs of the proceedings.

Pleas in law and main arguments

In support of the action, the applicants rely on five pleas in law.

- First plea in law, alleging that the inspection decision is unlawful insofar as it purports to authorize the Commission to request, under the threat of penalties, information from a Nuctech entity located outside the EU.
- 2. Second plea in law, alleging that the inspection decision is unlawful insofar as compliance with the decision would compel the undertaking to violate Chinese law, including criminal law.
- Third plea in law, alleging that the inspection decision infringes the applicants' right of the inviolability of its business premises and privacy (Article 7 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union);
- Fourth plea in law, alleging that the inspection decision is arbitrary because the Commission did not possess sufficient indicia for suspecting that the applicants received foreign subsidies leading to a distortion in the internal market.
- Fifth plea in law, alleging that the inspection decision infringed Article 14(3) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560, the Commission's obligation to state reasons under Article 296(2) TFEU, and the right of defence of the applicants.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2022/2560 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 on foreign subsidies distorting the internal market (OJ 2022 L 330, p. 1).