

PRESS RELEASE – 5 November 2024

PUBLICATION OF THE 42th ANNUAL REPORT ON THE USE OF TRADE DEFENCE INSTRUMENTS

5 November 2024, Brussels – On Monday, 14th October 2024, Mr. Denis Redonnet, Director-General – Chief Trade Enforcement Officer, presented to the Committee on International Trade (INTA) the Commission’s 42nd Annual Report on the use of trade defence instruments. As an active user of such instruments, the ceramic industry welcomes the publication of this report and the Commission’s efforts to address unfair trade practices causing injury to EU producers.

On Monday, 14th October 2024, Mr. Denis Redonnet presented the Commission’s “*42nd Annual Report on the EU’s Anti-Dumping, Anti-Subsidy and Safeguard Activities and the Use of Trade Defence Instruments by Third Countries targeting the EU in 2023*” to the INTA Committee. During his presentation, he stated that **the Commission needs to continue to be responsive to the needs for protection from all domestic producers when the claims are legitimate, including SMEs.** Mr. Redonnet also linked the increasing demand for protection to significant **global overcapacities**, which trade defence instruments can tackle in the absence of global rules assessing the roots of these market distortions.

Cerame-Unie welcomes the publication of the [Report](#), which was published on Monday, 24th September 2024, the Commission’s declarations and also **MEPs reactions**. Several members of the INTA Committee indeed addressed questions on flexibilities for **SMEs, better consideration of social and environmental standards under EU TDI rules**, as well as **whether the current resources** available to the Commission on TDIs are sufficient to cope with the current surge in TDI cases.

The report recalls that, in addition to duties applied on **ceramic tableware and tiles from China**, the Commission introduced anti-dumping measures on imports **of ceramic tiles from India** (6.7% to 8.7%) and **Türkiye** (4.8% to 20.9%) in 2023, after a complaint lodged by the European Ceramic Tile Manufacturers’ Association (CET). As mentioned in the report, these measures “*have been critical to safeguard domestic production, foster investments and save over 100 000 jobs in the EU*”. Despite these efforts however, the level of duties targeting Indian exporters has proven to be **too low to restore a fair competition** and European ceramic tiles producers suffered from a **surge in imports from India by 51% in 2023 compared to level during the investigation period**. This highlights the **need for a significant strengthening of measures currently in force in relation to ceramic tiles from India**.

The fact that SMEs have “*less experience, knowledge and resources when it comes to participating in trade defence investigations*” is acknowledged in the report and Cerame-Unie recalls the need for simplified access to TDIs for such producers. Cerame-Unie also welcomes the **Commission’s decision to automatically register imports** in all future and ongoing investigations, easing the burden on the market and opening the way to retroactive duties in case of the increase of dumped or subsidised imports.

Free and **fair international trade** is key to the competitiveness of the EU ceramic industry, which is historically exposed to strong competition both in global markets and in the EU. A **global level playing field** remains paramount to maintaining jobs and investments in the EU and ultimately reaching the objective of the green transition, continuing our path towards climate neutrality.

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