

PRESS RELEASE – 17 November 2023

PUBLICATION OF THE THIRD REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF EU TRADE POLICY

17 November 2023, Brussels – Cerame-Unie welcomes the publication of the Commission’s 3rd Report on implementation and enforcement of EU Trade Policy. The EU Ceramic Industry is an export-oriented sector serving customers all around the world. For this reason, Cerame-Unie remains in close contact with the Commission to actively address the concerns of EU ceramic exporters and ensure that trade barriers are solved in the most effective and timely manner.

Cerame-Unie welcomes the publication of the Commission’s third “[Report on Implementation and Enforcement of EU Trade Policy](#)”, providing an analysis of the EU actions to ensure compliance with trade rules by its trading partners.

The Report acknowledges the positive impact of Free Trade Agreements on EU trade, whose global value surpassed €2 trillion for the first time in 2022. EU ceramic exporters are benefitting from this FTA network, which has opened further opportunities in important markets like Japan, Canada, South Korea and Singapore.

European Ceramics are historically an export-oriented industry consisting of SMEs, which makes it particularly vulnerable to barriers to trade in third countries. In this context, the work carried out by the Commission to identify and remove barriers has been very important to meet the concerns of EU businesses. Accordingly, Cerame-Unie is an active user of the EU Trade Policy instruments, as well as a member of the Market Access Advisory Committee, which continues to provide valuable exchanges with other stakeholders on cross-sectorial trade issues.

Long-standing barriers continue to affect EU exporters of ceramic tiles in important markets for the industry, such as Saudi Arabia. However, the Commission’s action in 2022 was fundamental to solve the long-standing barrier imposed by Egypt in 2016, affecting EU exporters of ceramic tiles. The import licensing requirements imposed by Egypt were adapted to streamline the procedure for EU exporters and the EU is currently monitoring the implementation of the adjusted system.

Cerame-Unie remains in close contact with the Commission to actively address the concerns of our companies and ensure that problems with trading partners are solved in the most effective and timely manner. Enforcement of EU trade policy remains a key priority for the industry.

The European ceramic industry covers a wide range of products including abrasives, bricks & roof tiles, clay pipes, wall & floor tiles, refractories, sanitaryware, table- & ornamentalware, technical ceramics, expanded clay and flower pots. The industry generates over 200,000 direct jobs and a production value of €31 billion in the EU.

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