

## PRESS RELEASE – 02 September 2021

### PUBLICATION OF THE 39<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT ON THE USE OF TRADE DEFENCE INSTRUMENTS BY THE EU AND BY THIRD COUNTRIES TARGETING THE EU IN 2020

**02 September 2021, Brussels – The ceramic industry is an active user of the EU’s Trade Defence Instruments (TDIs), which have been essential to counter illegal trade practices causing injury to EU ceramic producers. Cerame-Unie remains in close contact with the Commission to monitor the enforcement of AD measures and challenge the misuse of TDIs by third countries.**

Cerame-Unie welcomes the [publication](#) of the Commission’s “39<sup>th</sup> 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 2020”, which takes stock of the developments in trade defence affecting the EU industry in 2020.

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. For this reason, trade defence is of crucial importance to fight trade distortions and level the domestic and global playing field, thereby creating the right environment for further investments in sustainable manufacturing to be made in the EU.

Currently, the ceramic industry is covered by trade defence measures applied to imports from China in two of its sub-sectors, namely through anti-dumping duties on imports of ceramic tiles and ceramic table- & ornamental ware. These measures have been crucial to safeguard the domestic production, foster investments and save around 110,000 direct jobs in the EU.

Cerame-Unie welcomes the Commission’s Annual Report on TDI acknowledging the importance of the current anti-dumping measures for our industry and taking it as an example of an **SME sector successfully using and benefitting from TDI**. We appreciate the efforts of the Commission to continue tackling unfair trade practices and we will remain in close contact with the Commission services to monitor the correct implementation of anti-dumping and anti-circumvention measures in our sector.

Last but not least, we strongly support the commitment by EVP Dombrovskis to fighting the misuse of trade defence instruments by the EU’s trading partners. As shown by the report, trade defence actions against EU exporters in third countries reached their highest level in 2020, including investigations targeting EU ceramic tiles producers in Malaysia, the Philippines and in the Gulf Cooperation Council. The active participation of the EU in the proceedings – supported by a strong reaction from the industry – was instrumental to the termination of the investigations without measures. However, the EU industry remains highly concerned by the increasing abuse of safeguard investigations in third countries, which we have continued to witness in the first half of 2021.

\*\*\*

*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.*

**Cerame-Unie aisbl**

Rue Belliard 12 - 1000 Brussels - Tel: +32 2 808 38 80 - sec@cerameunie.eu - www.cerameunie.eu - twitter.com/CerameUnie  
EU Transparency Register 79465004946-12