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Governments should not be divided on imposing anti dumping duties

Commission proposal imposing final antidumping duty on imports of certain footwear with uppers of leather originating in China and Vietnam

With the decision of the College of Commissioners, in accordance with Community law, it is up to the member states to take a final decision in this anti dumping case.

CEC urges all governments of the Union to vote in favour of the latest Commission proposal involving an anti-dumping duty for Vietnam and China. A supportive vote is of the utmost importance for a number of reasons, of which the most important are:

- The Commission's finding of serious dumping, injury, causation and Community interest to take anti-dumping measures
- The Commission's finding of serious state intervention in China and Vietnam and as a consequence creation of unfair trade
- The fact that under such circumstances, it would be against EC-anti-dumping law to vote against a proposal for the adoption of anti-dumping duties
- A rejection would further make the whole EC anti-dumping law obsolete and would jeopardize future anti dumping cases
- A rejection would be a very bad signal to all trade partners as it would create the impression that one can get away with dumping. It would stimulate dumping practices and threaten fair and open trade
- One should know that the Union still manufactures footwear in most EU countries, and that even in a globalized economy, the industry does its utmost to be innovative, fashionable and competitive
- The EU industry supports globalization, free and fair trade. Acting to limit the damaging effects of dumping is acting to ensure that globalization is open, fair and competitive
- No industry can survive with dumping practices, state intervention and circumvention of trade defense measures whether it is footwear, carpets, salmon or steel
- Europe has still a large production on children footwear, based on quality for the sake of the child his/her foot. Cheap Asian children shoes often lack the necessary core elements to support the contact of the child with the ground
- Consumer prices will not increase as the duty is calculated on import prices (average 8.5 €) and the margin for the retail goes from 35 € to over 100 €
- The average import price decreased with 25 % while consumer prices increased
- The duties affect only 11 pairs of shoes from every 100 pairs of shoes bought by Europeans

The current proposal was rejected by a narrow margin by Member states at advisory level. Member states have now to decide by a legally binding vote and will be asked to explain the legal rationale for their vote. The Commission's proposal represents its best efforts to reconcile the different economic interests at stake in Europe while carrying out its responsibilities and respecting its legal obligations and the facts determined by the Commission investigation.

CEC emphasizes that the proposal in fact means a compromise for our sector, as a big part of the imported volumes were marked as non-injurious, which is contrary to the rules and practice of EC anti-dumping law. In spite of criticism to be made, the industry is willing to accept this compromise due to the sensitive character of the investigation.



Governments should therefore not be divided and respect the proposal and investigation of the Commission and respect the EU anti-dumping law.

The footwear industry however informs the member states that it is not willing to go beyond what is acceptable and that it is determined to recur to procedures before the European Court in case a reasonable proposal is rejected by Member states, who are obliged to give a proper and legal justification for its eventual rejection of the proposed measures.



For more information, please do not hesitate to contact us to the following address:

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