



Global Trade Alert Belgium

Expected Anti-Dumping and Anti-Subsidy probes to start in Steel and Aluminium Sectors

The steel and aluminium industry worldwide is under intense pressure. The global overcapacity fuelled by China's 50% share in the world's production gives rise to continued disruption in the international marketplace by increased exports, depressing prices and a subsequent increase in trade barriers and remedies.

The battle around steel and aluminium trade defence mechanisms escalated over the past days with aggressive US-led trade actions and unprecedented multiple investigations in Europe.

This week, the U.S. Steel industry publicly called President Trump for "broad and comprehensive" import restrictions. Sources in Washington indicate a possible action under Section 232 of the 1962 Trade Expansion Act, which allows for limits on imports on national security grounds. This comes four weeks after Trump's administration self-initiated anti-dumping and anti-subsidy probes against Chinese imported aluminium alloy sheet. This seldom-used tactic is aimed at accelerating the imposition of duties, drawing a strong reaction from Beijing.

In Europe, trade authorities have intensified anti-dumping and anti-subsidy investigations imposing a record number of measures, with 38 anti-dumping and anti-subsidy measures in force on steel products, 16 of which on steel imports from

China. Near the end of 2017, the European Commission published a report identifying significant distortions in China's steel and aluminium sector for the purpose of trade defence investigations ([19 December 2017 Customs Flash: "New Anti-Dumping Rules in force: Implications for China"](#)).

As frequently observed in global trade, escalation is ongoing. U.S.-led actions will definitely generate mirroring effects in other parts of the globe through fear of trade deflection and more price depression. In this context, steel and aluminium trade defence investigations will likely be initiated in Europe and elsewhere soon.

This fast-moving environment affects many industrial clients, as steel and aluminium products are used in transportation, automotive, marine applications, construction, infrastructure, electrical machinery and household appliances.

Deloitte's Global Trade Advisory specialists have hands-on experience in anticipating changes in the global trade landscape, and providing clients with expertise in strategic and technical aspects of trade defence matters.

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