

Press release  
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FTA  
Foreign Trade Association

## COMMISSION TO OPEN ANTI-DUMPING REVIEW ON SHOES FROM CHINA AND VIETNAM

**"This news will be disappointing for thousands of importers and retailers" said Jan Eggert, Secretary General of the Foreign Trade Association which represents European commerce on foreign trade issues. "However, the fact that an expedited review will take place, plus the possibility for reimbursement of duties, is welcomed".**

Mr Eggert was referring to two exceptional measures that the Commission has decided upon. Firstly, rather than taking the usual fifteen months, the review will be conducted over just seven. Second, that unlike under normal expiry review conditions, should the review conclude that the duties should not continue, reimbursement of duties paid throughout the review may be possible.

On 17 September, a majority of 15 to 12 Member States objected to the Commission's proposal to open an expiry review on imports of leather shoes from China and Vietnam. "This clearly showed the strength of feeling against the imposition of these measures that was first raised two years ago when the duties were, only just, originally imposed" said Jan Eggert, referring to the fact that the original proposal to impose definitive duties was only passed by a majority of 13 to 12 Member States (with 4 abstentions counting as votes in favour).

However, despite the outcome of the 17 September meeting, the Commission have concluded that they are legally obliged to proceed with the review. That said, recognising that there is substantial opposition to this decision they have to take the extraordinary measure described above.

"We know that the imports are not causing the EU industry injury, despite their claims to the contrary" said Mr Eggert. "The type of shoes being imported are no longer being produced here; production has moved overseas. Since 'injury' is a precondition to duties being imposed, the only logical conclusion to the review is that the duties will expire and I look forward to telling my members they may claim for reimbursement."

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*The FTA is the association for European commerce that specialises in foreign trade issues. It is committed to achieving its goal of a true free trade environment. For 30 years it has supported its members, consisting of national trade associations and companies from all over Europe, by providing expertise and up-to-date information and by campaigning on their behalf against protectionist measures in the European and international arena.*

## **IMPRESSUM / CONTACT**

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