

Press release
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FTA
Foreign Trade Association

CANDLES TO BE HIT BY INCREASED DUTIES

Member States have this morning agreed to a Commission proposal to impose punitive anti-dumping duties against imports of candles from China. The Commission went ahead with their proposal, based on its conclusions to a 13 month investigation despite much opposition from European retailers and importers to those conclusions.

“When provisional duties were imposed in November, we got our first sight of the conclusions reached by the Commission in their investigation which at that point had been running for nine months” said Jan Eggert, Secretary General of the Foreign Trade Association that represents European commerce. “At that point, we realised that there were many problems with those conclusions and submitted a detailed response on behalf of our members”.

Questions were raised against the claim of injury to the Community producers when it is known that decorative, “fancy”, and birthday candles are produced in only very small numbers in the Community. In addition, it was discovered that Community producers are unable to meet the demands of the European consumer and that the imports from China are a necessity. Furthermore, the Commission refused to accept that the paraffin cartel had an adverse affect on the Community producers, preferring instead to place the blame squarely on the shoulders of the imports.

“Some of the claims by the Commission, such as that retailers are achieving mark-ups of several hundred percent, are quite frankly ludicrous”, said Jan Eggert. “I only hope that, in light of the G20 commitment last week to avoid protectionist measures, this example is an aberration and that further calls to impose unwarranted anti-dumping measures go unanswered”.

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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.

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