



PRESS RELEASE

Boating industry successful in cutting EU duties on Chinese fibreglass

Brussels, 27 January 2011 – The active involvement of the European boating industry, together with other European sectors using fibreglass such as the composite and the plastic industries is showing increasing results. In a meeting held on 13 January 2011 with Member States, the European Commission decided to cut by 2/3 the provisional anti-dumping duties adopted in last September 2010. It is now proposing a 13.8% tariff on imports of Chinese fibreglass strands, mats and rovings while yarns are no longer concerned by possible anti-dumping duties. This is a significant reduction compared to the 43.6% currently in place as provisional anti-dumping duties.

It seems quite clear that the new Commission's plan proposing a drastic reduction of anti-dumping duties reflects the growing opposition to the original duties and the representations that *European Boating Industry* has made on behalf of European boatbuilders.

Last autumn, *European Boating Industry* took part to a formal hearing with the European Commission's investigation team to present its findings on the case. It also submitted a written contribution to the investigation, challenging a series of conclusions drawn the European Commission's initial investigation.

In particular, it appeared that the interests of user industries such as boatbuilding, wind industry, car equipment manufacturing, and generally speaking the composite and plastic industries were not taken sufficiently into account when the provisional measures were adopted in September 2010.

Beside the action of *European Boating Industry* at EU level, several of its members like ANEN in Spain, British Marine Federation in United Kingdom, BVWW in Germany, POLBOAT in Poland and UCINA Confindustria Nautica in Italy – to name but a few of its 17 members – took active steps in informing their respective governments about the negative effects of the anti-dumping measures for a European boatbuilding industry which continues to face a very challenging economic climate.

On 20 January 2011, only 4 Member States voted in favour of the newly proposed 13.8% definitive anti-dumping duties but due to an astonishing number of abstentions (from 14 Member States), the new measures were carried. It is most likely that this decision will be endorsed by the Council of Ministers that will meet in February. The entry into effect of these new duties would be 17 March 2011. The definitive anti-dumping duties will apply to imports from China of fibreglass strands, rovings and mats, and will be in place for the next 5 years.

The President of *European Boating Industry*, boatbuilder Fritz Conyn, commented the vote outcome saying that "the reduction of this levy from 43.6% down to 13.8% is a significant success for the lobbying efforts of *European Boating Industry* on this issue. European boatbuilders have been hit by increases in raw material costs through both resin price increases and the introduction of this levy on Chinese fibreglass supply. Our members reacted quickly and worked together through the coordination of our European federation in Brussels to ensure that our industry had a strong voice in Brussels. It is pleasing that we have been able to reduce the impact of this decision on our boatbuilders."

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