

38th Annual Report
on the EU's Anti-Dumping, Anti-Subsidy and Safeguard activities and the Use of
trade defence instruments by Third Countries targeting the EU in 2019 –
COM(2020)164

FINAL DOCUMENT APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE

The Committee on Economic activities, trade and tourism of Italy's Chamber of Deputies,

having examined, pursuant to Rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure, the 38th Annual Report on the EU's Anti-Dumping, Anti-Subsidy and Safeguard activities and the Use of trade defence instruments by Third Countries targeting the EU in 2019 (COM(2020)164);

whereas,

the creation of the European Single Market, which is the most evident and tangible result of the European integration process for most citizens, must be framed within the broader trend of the gradual liberalisation of international trade that began after World War II;

the Single Market provided the conditions to facilitate the reconstruction and impetuous growth of European economies in the past decades, while ensuring steadily increasing employment rates;

the EU's open, transformation economies stand out for the intensity of trade. Together with China and the United States, the EU remains the world's leading exporter and importer of goods and services;

during international negotiations, the European Union has traditionally adopted a favourable approach to the liberalisation of trade, and to the abolition, or at the very least the reduction, of duties and barriers to the free flow of goods and services;

in recent years, the steadily increasing importance of emerging economies, particularly China, has led to a redistribution of market shares to the detriment of European countries, due in part to often unfair trading practices;

given the persistence of improper behaviour on the part of certain countries, in recent years the European Union has been forced to adopt specific measures to fight widespread recourse to dumping and unjust subsidies damaging European productive systems. To this end, the EU has adopted trade defence measures whose effectiveness is monitored regularly by the European Commission;

in light of its strong manufacturing vocation, Italy is one of the countries most interested in developing a loyal and fair trade system, while having been among the most affected by growing global competition, resulting in a 25% or so contraction of its own manufacturing activities;

current scenarios show steadily escalating litigation involving some of the main international players, which combined with the stalling Doha negotiations has led to a preference for bilateral agreements;

the data that emerge from the European Commission annual report under examination show a mixed picture, with some problematic elements together with undoubtedly positive aspects;

in particular, the anti-dumping and anti-subsidy measures adopted by the European Commission, and which were strongly encouraged by Italy among others, produced some indisputably positive effects, especially where they have led to a drastic reduction in unfair injurious imports, particularly from China;

at the same time, monitoring and investigative activities uncovered the need to introduce safeguard measures on imports of certain products, particularly steel, and the need to firmly act against the persistence of certain injurious practices, such as the circumvention of duties on imports from China by channelling them under the wrong identity;

having acknowledged the information and evaluations acquired during the hearings;

stressing the need that the present document be forwarded to the European Parliament, the Council, and the European Commission within the framework of the political dialogue,

calls upon the Government to ensure that the following issues are brought up within the framework of European negotiations:

- a) to support the monitoring efforts of the European Commission - in an increasingly detailed and targeted manner, reflecting the consolidation of knowledge and skills – on the anti-dumping practices and subsidies granted by certain countries in order to acquire market shares to the detriment of European enterprises, in addition to investigative activities and anti-circumvention measures implemented directly by the European Commission;
- b) to support, in all fora, the initiatives of the European Commission to ensure the proper application of rules and agreements adopted within the WTO framework;
- c) to urge all competent national administrations to boost the effectiveness and the rapid response ability of all entities responsible for enforcing European trade defence measures and for safeguarding fair trade by preventing unfair injurious imports;
- d) to urge European institutions to define as soon as possible a clear and effective regulatory framework to prevent counterfeiting, with particular reference to typical products or those under protected designations, which significantly bite into the market share of European productive systems, particularly Italian enterprises, whose small size makes it difficult for them to bear the burdens connected to the protection of their products and the fight against counterfeit goods;
- e) to promote the adoption of more targeted legislation, so as to protect European consumers alongside enterprises and ensure the maximum transparency and recognisability of goods produced in the European Union, especially those strongly identified with the territories in which they are made;

- f) to facilitate the implementation of the specific technical activities carried out by the European Commission to improve awareness of trade defence measures within SMEs.