

## PRESS RELEASE – 11 October 2022

### PUBLICATION OF THE SECOND REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF EU TRADE AGREEMENTS

**11 October 2022, Brussels – Cerame-Unie welcomes the publication of the Commission’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Report on implementation and enforcement of EU Trade Agreements. The EU Ceramic Industry is an export-oriented sector serving customers all around the world. For this reason, Cerame-Unie remains in close contact with the Commission to actively address the concerns of EU ceramic exporters and ensure that trade barriers are solved in the most effective and timely manner.**

Cerame-Unie welcomes the publication of the Commission’s second “[Report on Implementation and Enforcement of EU Trade Agreements](#)”, providing an analysis of the Commission’s actions to ensure compliance with trade rules by the EU trading partners.

The Report acknowledges the positive impact of Free Trade Agreements on EU exports, as well as its importance for the supply of critical raw materials. The document also shows that most EU exporters (94%) are Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

European Ceramics are historically an export-oriented industry consisting of SMEs, which makes it particularly vulnerable to barriers to trade in third countries. Cerame-Unie is an active user of the EU Trade Policy instruments, including the new Single Entry Point launched by DG Trade in 2020; in 2021, our sector accounted for the third highest number of new market access barriers reported to the Commission, after agriculture & fisheries and services.

In this context, the work carried out by the Commission to identify and remove barriers has been very important to meet the concerns of EU businesses. The Single Entry Point system has proven an effective tool to take prompt action against barriers to trade; likewise, the participation in the Market Access Advisory Committee continue to provide valuable exchanges with other stakeholders on cross-sectorial trade irritants.

Long-standing barriers continue to affect EU exporters of ceramic tiles in important markets for the industry, especially in Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Ensuring fair access to export markets is particularly important for EU companies in the current context of increasing costs and global economic disruptions.

Cerame-Unie remains in close contact with the Commission to actively address the concerns of our companies and ensure that problems with trading partners are solved in the most effective and timely manner.

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*The European ceramic industry covers a wide range of products including abrasives, bricks & roof tiles, clay pipes, wall & floor tiles, refractories, sanitaryware, table- & ornamentalware, technical ceramics, expanded clay and flower pots. The industry generates over 200,000 direct jobs and a production value of €31 billion in the EU.*

**Cerame-Unie aisbl**

Rue Belliard 12 - 1000 Brussels - Tel: +32 2 808 38 80 - sec@cerameunie.eu - www.cerameunie.eu - twitter.com/CerameUnie  
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