

PRESS RELEASE – 21 September 2022

PUBLICATION OF THE 40th ANNUAL REPORT ON THE USE OF TRADE DEFENCE INSTRUMENTS BY THE EU AND BY THIRD COUNTRIES TARGETING THE EU IN 2021

21 September 2022, Brussels – The ceramic industry is an active user of the EU’s Trade Defence Instruments (TDIs), which have been essential to counter illegal trade practices causing injury to EU ceramic producers. Strong enforcement and implementation of trade defence measures remains essential for the industry to continuing the path towards climate neutrality.

Cerame-Unie welcomes the [publication](#) of the Commission’s “40th 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 2021”, which takes stock of the developments in trade defence affecting the EU industry in 2021.

Free and fair international trade is key to the competitiveness of the EU ceramic industry, which is highly exposed to competition both in global markets and in the EU. For this reason, trade defence is of crucial importance to fight trade distortions and level the domestic and global playing field, thereby creating the right environment for further investments in sustainable manufacturing and green transition in the EU.

The ceramic industry is an active user of trade defence instruments as both ceramic tableware and ceramic tiles imports from China are subject to anti-dumping duties. These measures have been critical to safeguard the domestic production, foster investments and save around 110,000 direct jobs in the EU. Moreover, in 2021 the Commission launched an anti-dumping investigation on imports of ceramic tiles from Turkey and India following the complaint filed by the Union industry.

Cerame-Unie welcomes the Commission’s Annual Report on TDI acknowledging the importance of the current anti-dumping measures for our industry and taking it as an example of an SME sector successfully using and benefitting from TDI. Due to their capacity, smaller companies may be less prone to utilise the full potential of trade defence and we reiterate the importance of making EU TDIs accessible to all EU companies, regardless of their size. We appreciate the Commission’s commitment to facilitating the involvement of SMEs in trade defence and welcome further efforts in this regard.

The report also highlights DG TRADE’s focus on implementation of the EU’s TDIs. In particular, we welcome the efforts to monitor duty circumvention and ensure the rightful enforcement of trade defence measures. The EU ceramic table- and ornamental ware sector is particularly exposed to this risk, which was confirmed by the anti-circumvention measures adopted by the Commission in 2019.

We appreciate the Commission’s commitment to tackling unfair trade practices; Cerame-Unie will continue monitoring the correct implementation of anti-dumping and anti-circumvention measures in the ceramic sector in close contact with the EU services. A level playing field remains paramount to maintaining jobs and investments in the EU and ultimately reaching the objective of the green transition, continuing our path towards climate neutrality.

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
EU Transparency Register 79465004946-12