

441/16

441.2 (103)

Subject: Anti-dumping procedures concerning imports from the United States

The Commission has decided to open two anti-dumping investigations concerning imports of chemicals from the United States, which will be published in the Official Journal No. C 286 of 5.11.1980.

The investigations concern imports from the United States and its dependant territories of two products: orthoxylene, which is a raw material for PVC and certain resins, and paraxylene, which is a basic raw material used in the manufacture of polyester fibre. Both investigations have been opened following complaints lodged by the European Council of Chemical Manufacturers (CEFIC).

For orthoxylene, according to CEFIC, the margin of dumping based on the US domestic price is 18.6%. Imports of this product have increased from 51,000 tonnes in 1977 to 62,000 tonnes in 1979 which corresponds to 9% of the EEC market in 1977 and 10% in 1979. The market share of imports from the US rose to 17% in the first half of 1980. Temporary plant closures have already occurred in the Community and more job losses are feared if the dumping is not counteracted.

For paraxylene the dumping margin, again based on US domestic prices, is alleged by CEFIC to be 13.65%. Imports of paraxylene have risen from 100,698 tonnes in 1977 to 151,645 tonnes in 1979, an increase of 51%. The market share of imports from the US has risen from 14.5% to 17.9% in the same period and reached 21.6% in the first half of 1980. CEFIC also state that despite large increases in costs of raw materials, Community producers have been forced to lower their prices. This has resulted in temporary plant closures and it is feared that permanent closures will follow.

Since the beginning of 1979 the Commission has opened 33 anti-dumping or anti-subsidy investigations, of which 10 have concerned the United States, including 7 out of the 14 cases opened in 1980.¹ Nine of these investigations have involved chemicals or chemical-related products (fertilizers, synthetic fibres, etc.).

Lithium Hydroxyde

Opened on 19.5.1979 (OJ C 126) against the US and the USSR. A provisional duty was imposed on 31.10.79 and a definitive duty on 30.1.80 (OJ L23). The duty was later increased (OJ L 228/80). One American producer agreed to raise its prices and was accordingly exempted from the duty.

Acrylic fibres

Opened on 12.6.79 (OJ C 146) against 5 countries (Greece, Japan, Spain, Turkey and the US). A provisional duty was imposed on several US exporting companies, all but one of whom agreed later to increase their prices. This company refused to give satisfactory guarantees and a definitive duty was imposed on its exports on 30.4.80 (OJ L 114). As regards the other countries concerned, the investigation was closed following undertakings by the exporters to put an end to the dumping or, in the case of Greece, following a finding of no dumping.

Saccharine

Opened on 17.8.79 (OJ C 207) against four countries (China, Japan, US and Korea). The preliminary determination has not yet been given.

¹ By comparison during the previous nine years the Commission opened 65 product investigations of which only 5 involved the United States. The products concerned were quartz, Kraftliner, wood pulp, polyester and nylon yarn, and vinyl acetate. An anti-dumping duty was imposed in the case of Kraftliner but as part of a negotiated settlement with the EFTA countries (the duty was equal to the difference between the import paid and the agreed price).

Liquid Fertiliser (Urean)

Opened on 26.2.80 (OJ C 47) against the US. The Commission imposed a provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of this product on all except one company which agreed to increase prices (OJ L 212 of 14.8.80). Since then other companies have expressed a desire to cooperate and the Commission will propose to the Council that the period covered by the provisional duty should be extended by two months (till 14.12.80) to allow time for further investigation.

Polyester Yarn

Opened on 30.5.80 (OJ C 129) against the United States. The Commission imposed a provisional duty on the exports of all but one firm on 2.9.80 (OJ L 231). This firm, which was the only one to cooperate with the investigation has had its exemption from the duty confirmed by a subsequent regulation. Since then a second company has cooperated with the Commission's investigations and has also benefited from a finding of no dumping. It has also been decided to exempt certain sewing threads included in the same customs category (Nimexe code) but which are not being dumped.

Masking Tape

Opened on 31.5.80 (OJ C 130) against the United States. No decision has yet been reached.

Vinyl Acetate Monomer

Opened on 9.7.80 (OJ C 169) against the United States. No decision has yet been reached.

Styrene Monomer

Opened on 26.7.80 (OJ C 189) against the United States. No decision has yet been reached.

Paraxylene

Opened on 5.11.80 (OJ C 286) against the United States and one of its dependancies, the Virgin Islands.

Orthoxylene

Opened on 5.11.80 (OJ C 286) against the United States and Puerto Rico.

Anti-dumping investigation on louvre-doors from Malaysia and Singapore

The Commission has decided to open an anti-dumping investigation case on imports from Malaysia and Singapore of louvre doors (portes à claire-voie) which will also be published in OJ C 286 of 5.11.80. Two British companies complained on behalf of 85% of the EEC industry that the margin of dumping based on the domestic prices in these countries was between 56 and 89%. The market share of these two countries has risen from 1% in 1977 to 19% in 1979 and to 41% in the first half of 1980. The Community industry states that despite large increases in costs of raw materials in the Community producers have been prevented from increasing their prices and that sales in 1980 do not allow a reasonable profit on production costs. A total shutdown of the Community industry is to be feared. This is the second anti-dumping case involving this product to be opened in 1980, the first being in March when the Commission instituted a review of a United Kingdom anti-dumping duty on louvre doors from Taiwan.

Amitiés