

European Commission comments on China's request for WTO consultations

Brussels, 31 July 2009

Following the request by China for WTO consultations on EU anti-dumping measures on imports of certain iron or steel fasteners originating in the People's Republic of China, the EU Spokesperson for Trade, Lutz Güllner, made the following statement:

"We have taken note of China's request to seek consultations with the EU at the World Trade Organisation in relation to the anti-dumping measures imposed by the EU in January 2009 against certain carbon steel fasteners originating in China.

As a member of the World Trade Organisation, China has of course the right to bring its concerns to the WTO dispute settlement mechanism. We will now carefully study the claims contained in China's request and will respond in due course.

In all anti-dumping cases, the European Commission strictly follows the applicable EU rules which are in full compliance with the terms of the WTO Anti-Dumping Agreement. This is also the case for the measures on which China is now seeking consultations.

Anti-dumping measures are not about protectionism, they are about fighting unfair trade. The decision to impose measures was taken on the basis of clear evidence that unfair dumping of Chinese products has taken place with State distortion of raw material prices. This is harming the otherwise competitive EU industry, with potentially dire long term effects."

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/respectrules/anti_dumping/pr030809_en.htm