

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

of the Request for an expiry review of the anti-dumping duties on imports of ironing boards from the People's Republic of China

lodged by
Colombo New Scal SpA,
Rörets Polska Sp. z o.o, and
Vale Mill (Rochdale) Ltd

I. Product Concerned

The Product Concerned was defined in Regulation 695/2013 and Regulation 452/2007 as “*ironing boards, whether or not free-standing, with or without a steam soaking and/or heating top and/or blowing top, including sleeve boards, and essential parts thereof, i.e., the legs, the top and the iron rest [...] currently falling within CN codes ex 3924 90 00, ex 4421 90 98, ex 7323 93 00, ex 7323 99 00, ex 8516 79 70 and ex 8516 90 00.*”

II. Country Concerned

The country concerned is the People’s Republic of China.

III. Summary of the Request for an Expiry Review

Complainants. The Request for Expiry Review is submitted by Colombo New Scal S.p.A., Rörenes Polska Sp. z o.o, and Vale Mill (Rochdale) Ltd.

Procedural History. Full details of the procedural history of EU anti-dumping duties on ironing boards are set out in recitals 1-7 of Regulation 695/2013. In 2007, anti-dumping duties ranging from 9.9% - 38.1% were imposed on ironing boards originating in China and Ukraine. The duties in respect of imports of ironing boards from China were extended in 2013 for a period of five years ranging from 18.1% to 42.3%.

Dumping. The overwhelming majority of ironing boards sold in the EU are made of steel. For those boards, steel represents a large portion of the manufacturing costs. Due to severe distortions in the Chinese steel market (as evidenced in the Commission’s Report on significant distortion in the Economy of the People’s Republic of China of 20 December 2017), Chinese domestic prices and costs could not be relied upon to calculate the normal value for ironing boards. Instead, the Complainants constructed normal value by using the costs of production and sale in an appropriate representative country (Turkey). These calculations show that Chinese producers continue to sell ironing boards in Europe at dumped prices. The inputs used for the construction of normal value fall within the following Harmonised System (HS) Codes: 320649; 390210; 390730; 392113; 392321; 392490; 392630; 481910; 520852; 630790; 720917; 721123; 721710; 721720; 721790; 730630; and 730661.

Injury. Imports of Chinese ironing boards decreased when the anti-dumping duties were first imposed and have remained relatively stable since then. Thanks to the protection afforded by the duties, the Complainants have experienced relative stability as regards production, sales, market share and employment. Absent the duties, this would have been impossible: dumped Chinese imports would have dominated the market, effectively forcing European producers to exit ironing board production.

However, Chinese producers continue to undercut the prices of European producers by significant margins. In some cases, European prices are undercut by Chinese export prices even when the anti-dumping duties are included in the comparison. Undercutting has prevented the Complainants from expanding their sales or market share in a measurable way. As a corollary, there is no scope for the Complainants to increase their sales prices to increase profitability. Overall, profitability is low and the European industry is in a fragile and vulnerable state.

Likelihood of continuation or recurrence of dumping and injury. Chinese producers have the ability and the incentive to ship significant volumes of additional exports to the EU if the measures expire. First, the United States market – the second largest export market for Chinese ironing boards – is closed, as the U.S. authorities recently extended anti-dumping duties on Chinese ironing boards. Second, there is substantial production capacity in China, and likely excess capacity due to the ease with which producers can switch production. Third, the Chinese industry is export-oriented. Fourth, the EU market is important to Chinese producers. For these reasons, imports of dumped Chinese ironing boards to the EU would undoubtedly increase if the duties lapsed.

IV. Interested Parties

The Complainants. Colombo New Scal S.p.A; Rörets Polska Sp z o.o; Vale Mill (Rochdale) Ltd.

Other Known EU Producers. Brabantia Nederland BV; Leifheit AG; Afer-FUTE; Pirola SpA; Binex SRL; SCAB RUDIANO S.p.A.; GIMI S.p.A.

Known Exporting Producers. Since Hardware (Guangzhou) Co. Ltd; Guangdong Wireking Household Supplies Co. Ltd; Harvest International Housewares Ltd; Foshan City Gaoming Lihe Daily Necessities Co. Ltd; S & R Industries Limited; Wimpex; Forever Holdings Limited; Greenwood Houseware (Zhuhai), Co. Ltd.; Power Team Houseware Co. Ltd.; Foshan Kenries Family Markings Co., Ltd.; Guangzhou Topcol Houseware Ltd; Foshan Roda Houseware & Appliances Co., Ltd.; Guangzhou Huayue Design and Display Co., Ltd; Hangzhou Vcan Trade co., Ltd; Lanxi Kingway International Trade Co .,Ltd.; Market Union Co.,Ltd.; Ningbo Poris Imp&Exp Co., Ltd.

Known European Importers. Aldi Süd; Aldi Nord; Argos; Asda; B&Q; Carrefour; Homebase Ltd; Lidl GmbH; Norma Lebensmittelfilialbetrieb GmbH & Co. KG; Tesco; Sainsburys; Wilko; Bunnings; B&M; Auchan; Intermarche; Bauhaus; Rewe; Metro; Kingfisher Group; E. Leclerc; Edeka AG & Co. KG.