

Trade Defence

Ensuring a level playing field

Directorate General for Trade
European Commission
Trade Defence Directorate



The EU's commitment to the liberalisation of international trade depends on a level playing field between domestic and foreign producers based on genuine competitive advantages.

The European Commission's role in achieving open and fair trade includes the defence of European production against international trade distortions, by applying trade defence instruments in compliance with EU law and WTO rules.

The Trade Defence Directorate is in charge of these particular aspects of trade policy.

Our Mission:

Our main mission is to defend the European production against international trade distortions, such as subsidization or dumping.

We apply trade defence instruments (anti-dumping, anti-subsidy, safeguard) in compliance with EU law and WTO rules. We follow up the enforcement of measures. We also monitor the application of these instruments by third countries. We negotiate future international rules with our trading partners. EU Trade Defence thus underpins the gradual and progressive liberalisation of international trade benefits by ensuring a level playing field between domestic and foreign producers based on genuine competitive advantages.

Our Vision:

We endeavour to prevent that trade distortions undermine the overall Common Commercial policy goals, by:

- Maintaining and improving a system to combat distortions in international trade.
- Ensuring that EU economic operators, including SMEs, can rely on the best service in the conduct and follow-up of our trade defence investigations.
- Ensuring a level playing field by promoting adequate standards in third countries and by acting against abusive use of TDI against EU trade.

Our Values:

- **Objectivity:** we adopt an independent, impartial and unbiased attitude in our investigations.
- **Transparency:** we operate and communicate in a clear and understandable manner for the interested parties and for the general public.
- **Spirit of service:** we provide an outstanding, timely and trustworthy public service to stakeholders.
- **Excellence through people:** we attract and foster high level professionalism and strive to keep the competence of our staff at the highest level.

Contacts:

<http://ec.europa.eu/trade/contact/#trade-defence-contacts>