

European Union Announcement

31 October 2021

The European Union ('EU') takes note of the announced partial removal of U.S. Section 232 duties on steel and aluminium, and full removal of Section 232 duties on derivative articles. While this is a step in the right direction, the EU continues to consider these duties incompatible with World Trade Organisation rules.

Further to the US partial removal of Section 232 duties on EU exports, the EU will suspend the additional duties imposed on U.S. goods in response to the Section 232 action. The EU will keep the suspension under review in light of new developments, for instance developments that could deteriorate the situation for EU exports subject to the U.S. Section 232 steel and aluminium measures¹.

The EU recalls that, on 30 June 2021, the EU prolonged its steel safeguard measure until, in principle, 30 June 2024. The EU will, in conformity with World Trade Organisation rules, continue to apply its safeguard rules in the area of steel including during any period subsequent to the expiry of the current safeguard measures. The EU reiterates its commitment to prevent and remedy injury of its industry including that caused by non-market economy imports, when the conditions for the imposition of protective measures are satisfied.

¹ EU steel exports currently subject to the U.S. 232 steel measures, as well as the U.S. 232 steel-derivatives measures as identified in i) U.S. presidential Proclamation 9705 of March 8, 2018 (<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2018-03-15/pdf/2018-05478.pdf>); ii) U.S. presidential Proclamation 9704 of March 8, 2018 (<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2018-03-15/pdf/2018-05477.pdf>); iii) U.S. presidential "Proclamation 9980 of January 24, 2020" (<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/01/29/2020-01806/adjusting-imports-of-derivative-aluminum-articles-and-derivative-steel-articles-into-the-united>)