

**Executive summary**

**of the**

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**Anti-dumping complaint concerning imports of Superabsorbent Polymer originating  
in the Republic of Korea under Regulation (EU) 2016/1036 of 8 June 2016 on  
protection against dumped imports from countries not members of the European  
Union (as amended)**

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Submitted by King & Spalding on behalf of the European Superabsorbent Polymer Coalition

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The European Superabsorbent Polymer Coalition requests that the European Commission initiates an anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of superabsorbent polymers (“SAP”) originating in the Republic of Korea (“Korea”), pursuant to Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1036 of 8 June 2016 on protection against dumped imports from countries not members of the European Union, as amended, with a view to the imposition of anti-dumping measures for a five-year period.

## 2. INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPLAINT

### 2.1 Product description

The product concerned is “superabsorbent polymers” (SAP), insoluble in water, which result from a polymerization of acrylic monomer molecules with crosslinkers to form crosslinked polymer networks, with a high capacity to absorb and retain water and aqueous liquids, originating from the Republic of Korea.

The product concerned is commonly classified under CN code of the EU customs nomenclature ex 3906 90 90. This code is not exclusively dedicated to SAP.

SAP is a fine and white powder that is hard and seemingly crystalline to the touch. It is insoluble in water but can absorb and retain from 100 to 1000 times its own weight in water or from 20 to 60 times its own weight in body fluids (such as urine). The liquid is not only absorbed but also locked up inside the particles even under external pressure. The absorption process causes a phase change of the polymer from a dry powder to a soft gel that is still capable to absorb further liquid. SAP is mainly used for hygiene applications such as baby diapers, adult diapers and feminine hygiene products.

### 2.2 Summary of the complaint

The European Superabsorbent Polymer Coalition has filed this complaint on behalf of Union producers of SAP representing more than 50% of the total EU production.

Dumped imports of SAP from Korea have sharply and continually increased over the past years. This rapid evolution of imports of SAP from Korea has been made possible due to high dumping practices by Korean exporters on the EU market. The Complainant has provided evidence that dumped imports of SAP from Korea have caused material injury to the EU SAP industry.

#### *Dumping*

The Complainant has gathered evidence showing that Korean exporters have been practicing dumping on the EU market. The dumping margin estimated by the Complainant for Korean SAP exporters amounted to above 20%.

*Injury*

Due to these dumping practices, SAP imports from Korea have sharply and continually increased over the past years. Dumped SAP imports from Korea have rapidly gained significant market shares during the past three years and have caused material injury to EU SAP industry.

The price pressure from unfair imports from Korea has obliged the EU SAP industry to decrease significantly its price offers, drastically affecting their profitability.

The Complainant has provided micro and macro indicators describing the situation of the EU SAP industry. In this respect, it has compared the EU sale prices of SAP and the Korean import price to the EU and has evidenced significant undercutting and underselling margins during the period considered.

*Causal link*

The Complainant has established that dumped imports of SAP from Korea are the main cause of the injury suffered by the EU SAP industry. The dumped imports from Korea have exerted a downward price pressure on the EU sales prices forcing the EU SAP industry to reduce its prices, thus resulting in severe loss.

**3. INTERESTED PARTIES**

<b>Korean SAP producers</b>
Sumitomo Seika Polymers Korea Co., Ltd.
LG Chem, Ltd.
Songwon Industrial Co., Ltd,
<b>EU SAP producers</b>
BASF
Evonik
Nippon Shokubai Europe
Sumitomo Seika Europe

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