

Executive Summary

of the

**Request under
Article 23 of Regulation 1037/2016 concerning the circumvention
of countervailing duties on
imports of GFF from China and Egypt
by imports consigned from Morocco**

Submitted by



Prepared by

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1. The product concerned and the like product

1. The product concerned by this Request is the same as in AS656, namely fabrics of woven, and/or stitched continuous filament glass fibre rovings and/or yarns with or without other elements, excluding products which are impregnated or pre-impregnated (pre-preg), and excluding open mesh fabrics with cells with a size of more than 1.8 mm in both length and width and weighing more than 35 g/m² consigned from Morocco, whether declared as originating in Morocco or not, currently falling under combined nomenclature (CN) codes ex 7019 39 00, ex 7019 40 00, ex 7019 59 00 and ex 7019 90 00.¹
2. The product concerned is used to reinforce thermoplastic and thermoset resins in the composites industry. There are three representative types of the product subject to this Request: (i) woven rovings ("WR")², (ii) knitted non-crimp fabrics ("NCF")³; and (iii) complex materials ("CM")⁴. All types of GFF have the same basic physical, chemical and technical characteristics as well as the same basic uses.⁵

2. Summary of the Request

3. TECH-FAB Europe e.V. ("Tech-Fab" or the "Applicant"), an association of EU producers of glass fibres fabrics ("GFF"), requests that the Commission open an anti-circumvention

¹ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/776 of 12 June 2020 imposing definitive countervailing duties on imports of certain woven and/or stitched glass fibre fabrics originating in the People's Republic of China and Egypt and amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/492 imposing definitive anti-dumping duties on imports of certain woven and/or stitched glass fibre fabrics originating in the People's Republic of China and Egypt, OJ 2020 L 189/1, recital 127. TARIC codes 7019390080, 7019400080, 7019590080 and 7019900080. Imports of the product concerned are primarily reported under CN codes 7019 3900 and 7019 4000 and assessment of trade data such as Eurostat and GTA is done for these codes. They may however also be reported under CN codes ex 7019 5900 and ex 7019 9000. It is the Applicant's understanding that imports under these codes are mostly open mesh fabrics currently subject to anti-dumping measures. Consequently, imports under those codes are not analysed in the present Request. Nevertheless, the inclusion of these codes is necessary in order to cover all of the product concerned, and to prevent additional circumvention practices.

² WRs are plain (including unidirectional), satin and twill woven fabrics of glass fibre rovings with an area weight of up to 1500 g/m². WR are woven on a hydraulic loom, using glass fibre rovings as both the warp and weft yarns, to produce the finished goods.

³ NCFs are multiaxial (including uniaxial) fabrics of two to four layers of glass fibre rovings or yarns – also in combination with chopped strand mats ("CSM") or continuous filament mats ("CFM"), tissues or veils that can be added as top layer (fifth layer) and sometimes bottom layer (sixth layer) – stitched together at 0°, 90°, +/- 45° or other orientations, with an area weight of up to 2400 g/m². NCFs are produced by feeding between 2 and 4 glass fibre rovings or yarns into a multiaxial stitching or knitting machine at specific angles, 0°, 90°, +/-45° and other orientations in accordance with the product specifications. These layers of rovings are superimposed on one another and then mechanically stitched together, rather than woven, using a light polyester thread. A gauge of stitching of 5, 7 or 10 needles per inch is applied. In some cases, a layer of CSM or CFM, or a glass fibre veil or tissue, is also stitched in as one of the superimposed "layers".

⁴ CMs are fabrics with an area weight of up to 2400 g/m² made by: (i) mechanically stitching layers of WR or NCF to one or both sides of a synthetic core; (ii) combining WR with CSM, CFM or veils by mechanical stitching (stitched-bonded), powder bonding (glued), or needling with needles (without binder or stitching yarn); or (iii) mechanically stitching layers of CSM, CFM or veils to a synthetic core (without WR). CMs are produced by placing a synthetic core (normally a type of polyester needle mat), together with any combination of woven roving fabric, chopped strand mat, continuous filament mat or veil in a stitching machine. These layers are then stitched together, normally with polyester thread, at 2 to 5 mm intervals. In some cases, layers of woven roving and mat or veil will be stitched together (using a similar machine), powder bonded (glued) or needled (stitching, without binder or stitching yarn), before being placed in the stitching machine to be joined to the core.

⁵ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/776 of 12 June 2020 imposing definitive countervailing duties on imports of certain woven and/or stitched glass fibre fabrics originating in the People's Republic of China and Egypt and amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/492 imposing definitive anti-dumping duties on imports of certain woven and/or stitched glass fibre fabrics originating in the People's Republic of China and Egypt, OJ 2020 L 189/1, recitals 129 and 130.

investigation under Article 23 of the Basic Anti-Subsidy ("AS") Regulation⁶ concerning imports of GFF consigned from Morocco, with a view to extending to imports from this country the AS measures imposed on GFF imports from China and Egypt.

4. Following investigation AS656, Regulation 2020/776⁷ imposed definitive AS measures on imports into the EU of GFF from China and Egypt ("initial measures").
5. In 2019, during the ongoing investigation AS656, the Chinese Yuntianhua group announced that it would continue to supply the EU market from a newly established GFF site in Morocco, should the EU impose trade defence measures on imports from China. The site is operated by PGTEX, the Yuntianhua group's GFF business unit.
6. According to the Applicant's best information, PGTEX Morocco is mainly focused on supplying the EU market. It started the qualification processes for its GFF with EU customers as soon as its site became operative.
7. The GFF produced by PGTEX Morocco continue to benefit from subsidies found by Regulation 2020/776.
8. PGTEX Morocco is offering GFF to EU customers, including those previously supplied from China and Egypt, and is doing so at prices that are similar to those that gave rise to the adoption of Regulation 2020/776. It is thereby exercising price suppression and undercutting the EU sales prices of the EU industry, and thus undermining the remedial effect of the existing AS measures.

3. Interested parties

EU GFF producers
Bautex
Chomarat Textiles Industries
Dipex
Gama Tensor
Glasscom
Kümpers
Lavesan
Metyx
Owens Corning
Parabeam BV
P-D Glasseiden GmbH Oschatz
Saertex
Selcom
Vitrolan
Moroccan GFF producer
PGTEX Morocco
EU users and importers of GFF
Acciona
Bach

⁶ Regulation 2016/1037 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2016 on protection against subsidised imports from countries not members of the European Union, OJ 2016 L176/55.

⁷ Regulation 2020/776 of 12 June 2020 imposing definitive countervailing duties on imports of certain woven and/or stitched glass fibre fabrics originating in the People's Republic of China and Egypt and amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/492 imposing definitive anti-dumping duties on imports of certain woven and/or stitched glass fibre fabrics originating in the People's Republic of China and Egypt, OJ 2020 L189/1.

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Enercon
Fiberline
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