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Press Release

Disappointing result for Copa-Cogeca: the European Commission adopts a half-hearted position on imports of liquid nitrogen fertiliser.

The Member States' vote on 11th September in the Trade Defence Instruments Committee of the EU was concluded by an absence of opinion on the proposal to establish definitive anti-dumping duties on imports of urea and ammonium nitrate (UAN) originating from Russia, Trinidad and Tobago and the USA. Following this, the European Commission had a free hand on whether or not to adopt its proposal on the regulation establishing definitive anti-dumping duties. The half-hearted decision taken by the Commission leaves the representatives of agricultural organisations feeling dubious.

Despite Copa and Cogeca's recent actions, the Commission has published its regulation on [definitive anti-dumping measures](#) which enters into force today and is immediately applicable in the EU.

The additional duties on imports amount to 22.24 €/t for UAN originating from Trinidad and Tobago, 29.48 €/t for UAN from the USA, and 42.47 €/t for the majority of UAN originating from Russia. The measure is retroactive in the sense that the provisional duties (from 16.3% to 34%) that were established on 11th April 2019 and secured by way of a guarantee, will indeed be paid out.

The result of this decision, albeit not immediately noticeable due to market expectations and the pre-existing provisional tax, will be an increase in production costs for farmers using UAN, in particular those in the cereal sector. This new protection of the European fertiliser market, which is already not very competitive, is particularly unfair given that the agricultural markets themselves are increasingly open in the world.

Despite this disappointing outcome, we note that the impacts are somewhat limited because the fixed amount definitive taxes are lower than the level of the ad valorem duties initially proposed by the Commission and will not increase if the prices of UAN rise.

What is more, the Commission has just opened an investigation looking into whether or not to renew for five years the anti-dumping tax which has been imposed for more than 20 years on imports of Russian ammonium nitrate, a tax that we managed to successfully lower from 47 to 33 €/t (-30%) in November 2018.

Copa and Cogeca are as of now registered as stakeholders in this new procedure and are preparing information for the Commission with the DG TRADE services for the hearing which is set to be held in the upcoming weeks.

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