



Public Health Emergency. FACE: "Abolish the import duty on unwrought aluminum in the EU"

It is the first measure to be taken for facing the Coronavirus alarm and giving an equal competitiveness base to European aluminum transformers and manufacturing companies"

Abolish the duty on wrought aluminium import in the European Union. This is the proposal of FACE, the Federation of Aluminum Consumers in Europe, for containing the economic damages caused by the Coronavirus emergency.

Like all the other industrial sectors, also the downstream aluminum industry, which in Italy has its heart especially in Lombardy and Emilia-Romagna, has been seriously affected by the consequences of the global epidemic's alarm: it is estimated that the the most affected companies will be the downstream transformers SMEs, which represent over 95% of the sector and in some European countries - such as Italy, Germany and France - are an industrial sector of strategic value.

This emergency worsens an already problematic situation for downstream European aluminum companies, which in recent years have been facing a Chinese production overcapacity, with huge quantities of semi-finished products exported below market value, creating a serious damage to the entire sector. In this context, FACE welcomed the recent decision by the European Commission to launch an anti-dumping investigation on aluminum extrusions import from China, which is a significant first step for protecting European companies.

"With the emergency situation generated by the virus - said the FACE Secretary General, Mario Conserva – we need a greater effort by the institutions in order to eliminate all the obstacles and extra costs for European companies. First of all, it is necessary to finally intervene on the discrepancy at the value chain's origin that we have denounced for years: the duty on unwrought aluminium imports in the European Union, **an extra cost that has to be immediately eliminated because it causes a market distortion and an artificially higher price for the sector of around €1 billion per year, as explained in a recent study conducted by LUISS University of Rome.**"



FEDERATION OF ALUMINIUM CONSUMERS IN EUROPE

FACE was founded in 1999 to specifically defend the interests of the EU independent downstream aluminium transformers, users and consumers.

Based in Brussels, FACE advocates for the liberalisation of raw materials, protecting the EU's manufacturing base, supporting a rules-based and fair international system with the WTO at its core, and for the global transformation towards a low-carbon economy with aluminium as the ideal material for attaining sustainability goals. (face-aluminium.com).

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