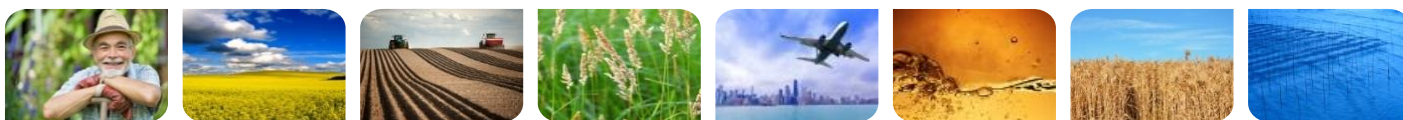


EBB PRESS RELEASE

The EBB welcomes provisional duties adopted today as a first positive step but calls for higher duties to counter unfair biodiesel imports from Argentina and Indonesia



The Commission released today a Regulation recognising the existence of unfair biodiesel imports from Argentina and Indonesia. EBB welcomes as a first positive step anti-dumping provisional duties against biodiesel imports from these countries but insist that Differential Export Taxes (DETs) will still hamper European industry unless higher anti-subsidy provisional duties are decided soon. The European biodiesel industry calls for appropriate measures ensuring accurate level playing field and an efficient defence of fair trade.

Provisional Anti-Dumping Duties against biodiesel imports from Argentina and Indonesia

In August and November 2012 respectively, the European Commission launched anti-dumping and anti-subsidy proceedings assessing the distortive effects of Differential Export Taxes (DETs) for biodiesel exports. Indeed, by setting higher export taxes for the raw materials used to produce biodiesel than on biodiesel itself, DETs artificially discourage raw materials export in favour of biodiesel exports. This has resulted in a surge of unfair imports, greatly injuring the European industry by distorting EU biodiesel markets and prices.

After careful on-site investigations, the European Commission set today provisional anti-dumping measures. The Regulation additionally acknowledges the claims about distortive effects of DETs on the European market and recognises Member States' concerns on the matter: *"The complainants have claimed that the Differential Export Tax system in [Argentina and Indonesia] depresses the price of [soy bean and palm] oil and therefore distorts the costs of biodiesel producers"*.

In this frame, EBB warmly encourages Commission services and Member States to ensure that DETs are considered in the calculation of forthcoming anti-subsidy provisional measures and will be reflected in the definitive anti-dumping and anti-subsidy measures expected at the end of 2013. The level of anti-dumping provisional duties defined so far is in fact insufficient to stop imports and unfair trade from these two countries risks to continue or to surge in the next months if no additional up-to-the-level duty is fixed.

Today's Regulation clearly highlights that the Commission has recognised the level of damage of the EU industry as much higher than the level of "pure" dumping (the latter being the only one covered by the present regulation so far). While the dumping margin has been identified between 10,6% and 9,6%, in fact, the level of damage of the EU industry (i.e. the actual difference between the European price and the local Argentinean and Indonesian prices in Europe) has been defined at respectively of 31,8% and 27,1% for imports from these two countries. The difference is clearly the part (and it is not the minor part) to be covered by future investigations, especially on anti-subsidy.

"This decision represents a first step to counter unfair and uncompetitive biodiesel imports from these countries, states EBB Secretary General Raffaello Garofalo. Yet there is serious concern that the current Differential Export Taxes policies applying in both countries will keep fostering unfair imports. The huge damage which has been suffered and will continue to be suffered by the EU industry - until further additional duty will be fixed - needs to be addressed urgently. On behalf of the whole EU biodiesel industry and of the hundreds of thousand European jobs and workers involved, EBB calls for higher additional anti-subsidy duties to be defined in the next months as accurate and dissuasive measures to counter unfair biodiesel trade"