

EBB Press Release

In view of tomorrow's Trade Defence (TDI) meeting EBB urges EU Member States and the Commission to adopt high provisional duties vs. unfair subsidized biodiesel exports from Argentina



During tomorrow's TDI meeting Member States' representatives are going to discuss a recent Commission document that, in spite of clear evidence of distortive practices and strong injury for the EU economy, fails to announce provisional Anti-Subsidy (AS) duties vs. Argentina. The Commission investigation found evidence that the Argentinean Differential Taxes (DETs) mechanism is a price distortive and an unfair subsidization practice. It also demonstrated the existence of an injury for our industry, with the EU biodiesel market literally flooded by unfair Argentinean exports and huge consequential economic damages for EU industry, farmers and employment. Surprisingly, however, the proposal of the Commission is not to set a provisional duty, and wait for more time, in order to clear all doubts that a potential duty will serve EU interests.

EBB is making clear that if no provisional duties are fixed within the next days, the EU Biodiesel industry will again be severely impacted by unfair trade flows, with a potential for catastrophic consequences for the EU green economy, European agriculture and jobs. While the Commission is also proposing to cancel previously existing Anti-Dumping duties vs. Argentina, for the EU biodiesel industry it is already impossible to compete with Argentinean exports that are sold in Europe at unfairly low prices and even lower than the cost of biodiesel raw materials – which is, per se, a clear proof of unfair trade practice.

Although a registration of all unfair imports from Argentina has been set since last June, Argentinean exporters seem so confident that the EU authorities will not make full use of EU Trade Defence Instruments, that they are braving all risks of retroactive duties and have even accelerated their trade flows towards the EU, at the point of reaching an historic peak with almost 250.000 tonnes last July, representing 25% of the EU market. In this context, a number of EU producers have already stopped production and some even bankrupted, and there the industry can wait no longer for provisional duties and the protection they deserve from the EU .

"It is difficult to understand how the Commission would need more time to verify the EU interest of setting high provisional duties against Argentina – said Raffaello Garofalo, EBB Secretary General – while in the absence of such duties a whole path of EU green economy, agriculture and jobs is going to collapse". The Commission investigation has demonstrated all evidence about the unfair nature and huge distortions created by Argentinean of DETs export subsidies. It has even shown that a provisional duty higher than 30% is ready to be applied. *"Consequently the EU biodiesel industry urges the Commission and Member States to agree at tomorrow's TDI meeting on the absolute and immediate need to set by this month a high provisional duties against unfair biodiesel from Argentina",* concluded Mr. Garofalo.

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The **European Biodiesel Board (EBB)** is a non-profit organisation established in January 1997. Today, EBB gathers nearly 80 members across 21 Member-States, which represents 75% of the European output. Biodiesel is the main European solution to reduce emissions from transport and dependence on imported oil. EBB aims to promote the use of biodiesel in the European Union and is committed to fulfil International standards for sustainability in GHG emissions and sustainable feedstock. EBB is constantly working towards the development of improved and greener technologies.

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