



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

COMPETITIVENESS AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS



03.09.09

Anti-dumping duties

COM(2009) 437 - Proposal for a Council Regulation Terminating the 'new exporter' review of Regulation (EC) No 1174/2005 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty and collecting definitively the provisional duty imposed on imports of hand pallet trucks and their essential parts originating in the People's Republic of China, re-imposing the duty with regard to imports from one exporter in this country and terminating the registration of these imports

In January 2009 the Commission initiated a 'new exporter' review of Council Regulation (EC) No 1174/2005 which imposes a definitive anti-dumping duty and collects the provisional duty imposed on imports of hand pallet trucks and their essential parts originating in China. Furthermore, the Commission repealed the duty with regard to imports from one exporter in this country (Crown Equipment (Suzhou) Company Limited) and made these imports subject to registration.

In May the applicant withdrew its request for a review. The Commission deemed that it was not necessary to continue the investigation *ex officio*, and thus concluded that the review should be terminated. Consequently, the duty applicable to all other companies imposed by Regulation (EC) No 1174/2005 must be re-imposed on Crown Equipment (Suzhou) Company Limited.

Thus, the Commission is proposing that the Council adopt the draft Regulation which will terminate the 'new exporter' review, re-impose the duty with regards to imports from Crown Equipment (Suzhou) Company Limited and remove the requirement that these imports be registered.



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

New Directive on defence and security procurement enters into force

Directive 2009/81/EC on defence and security procurement entered into force on 21 August 2009. The Directive will be the cornerstone of a truly European Defence Market supporting the development of the European defence-related supplier base.

Up until now, the vast majority of defence and sensitive security procurement contracts have been exempted from the Internal Market rules. One of the reasons for this is that the existing EU procurement rules are considered to be ill-suited for most defence- and security-related purchases. The new Directive will greatly improve this situation by providing tailor-made procurement rules for defence and security contracts. Member States now have at their disposal Community rules they can apply to complex and sensitive transactions without putting at risk their legitimate security interests.

[Read more](#)

Commissioners Ashton and Fischer Boel in India to discuss way forward on WTO Doha talks

EU Trade Commissioner Catherine Ashton and EU Agriculture Commissioner Mariann Fischer Boel will travel to New Delhi from the 2nd to 5th of September to take part in an informal meeting of WTO ministers hosted by the Indian government. The meeting will seek to give a renewed push to the Doha round of world trade talks, building on decisions taken by G20 leaders in London earlier this year.

The Commissioners will give statements at a plenary session of WTO Trade Ministers in the evening of the 3rd of September. On the 4th of September they will participate in a discussion on key issues that need to be concluded in order to drive forward the negotiations.

Commissioner Ashton will also hold a bilateral meeting on the 5th of September with her Indian counterpart Minister Anand Sharma to discuss bilateral trade relations between the European Union and India. Among other issues, Commissioner Ashton and Minister Sharma will review progress in bilateral negotiations for a comprehensive trade and investment agreement.

[Read more](#)



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

Distribution and after-sales agreements in the motor vehicle sector
What should happen when the block exemption regulation expires?
Consultation session

Motor vehicle manufacturers often enter into agreements such as distribution and after-sales services agreements with authorised dealers and repairers for the distribution, repair and maintenance of their products. EC Competition rules dictate that such agreements must be notified to the European Commission in order to ensure that the agreement respects the said rules.

However, agreements falling within the ambit of block exemption regulations need not be notified. This is the case of the motor vehicle sector where, provided that the agreements in question satisfy the conditions of the applicable block exemption regulation i.e. Regulation (EC) No 1400/2002, the agreements do not need to be notified. Given that this Regulation will expire in May 2010, the European Commission has adopted a Communication setting out the basic policy orientations for the future legal framework that should apply to agreements in the sector after its expiry.

In this context MEUSAC together with the Consumer and Competition Division within the Ministry of Finance, the Economy and Investment and in collaboration with GRTU, is organising a briefing and consultation session for stakeholders on the issues involved, the current discussions taking place and developments to be expected in the near future.

The session should be of particular interest to all operators involved in the motor vehicle sector, in particular importers, dealers and repairers. It is being held on **Monday 14th September 2009 at 1200 hrs** at GRTU, Republic Street, Valletta.

Registration is highly recommended in view of seating restrictions and should reach MEUSAC offices by not later than noon of Friday 11th September 2009 on consult.meusac@gov.mt