
Brussels, 17 September 2008

ANTIDUMPING ON SHOE IMPORTS: NO FURTHER EXTENSION!

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 17 September 2008 – EuroCommerce, BEUC and AEDT are delighted at the “no” from a majority of EU member states against a further extension of the antidumping duties on shoe imports from China and Vietnam.

“Now we expect a clear signal from the Commission that the duties will expire on 8th October”, said Secretary General of EuroCommerce, Xavier R. Durieu. “We need clarity as soon as possible. Three weeks before the foreseen expiry, importers and retailers are still left in uncertainty as to the tariffs they will be charged at the border.”

“After this strong signal against the extension of import taxes on footwear from China and Vietnam by the majority of the Member States, the Commission should refrain from initiating an expiry review. This would only continue an artificial and unjustified protection of some less competitive producers. Such measures have already demonstrated to just harm consumers and the large majority of modern EU companies that invest in design, innovation, services and create new jobs. They should not be further penalised and left in a situation of uncertainty. ”, said Sjang van Hout, Chairman of AEDT Footwear.

“These duties have been in place already for too long time. They did not help anybody. Consumers, who currently already face huge price increases, namely in the food and energy sector, have had to pay the bill for long enough now. There can only be one answer: stop the discussion on the expiry review and lift the antidumping measures on 8th October 2008”, concluded Ms Goyens, BEUC Director General.



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BEUC, The European Consumers' Organisation. In 2008 our members include 41 reputed, independent national consumer organisations from some thirty countries. BEUC acts as a sort of embassy for these organisations in Brussels and our main task is to represent our members and defend the interests of all Europe's consumers.

EuroCommerce represents the retail, wholesale and international trade sectors in Europe. Its membership includes commerce federations and companies in 30 European countries. Commerce is the closest link between industry and the 493 million consumers across Europe. It is a dynamic and labour-intensive sector, which plays a significant role in the European economy, generating 11% of the EU's GDP through nearly 6 million companies. Over 95% of these small & medium-sized enterprises. Over 30 million Europeans work in commerce, and the sector supports millions of dependent jobs throughout the supply chain.

AEDT – European Association of Fashion Retailers – represents more than 400.000 large, medium and small-sized European retail enterprises specialised in fashion and footwear.

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