



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 17.10.2020  
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*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Camera dei Deputati for its Opinion on the Commission's 38th Annual report on the EU's anti-dumping, anti-subsidy and safeguard activities and the use of trade defence instruments by third countries targeting the EU in 2019 {COM(2020) 164 final}.*

*The Commission appreciates the interest expressed by the Camera dei Deputati for the EU's use of trade defence instruments. The Commission welcomes Italy's commitment to maintaining a fair trading system. In this context, the Commission also welcomes the Camera dei Deputati's endorsement of the conclusions of the Annual Report. EU trade defence is indeed a crucial tool to counter unfair trade practices, such as dumping and subsidisation, and to contribute to the recovery of the European economy in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.*

*The Annual Report confirmed that EU trade defence measures were highly effective in restoring fair competition, without at the same time disrupting supply chains of vital importance to EU companies. The Commission welcomes the Camera dei Deputati's broad acknowledgment that measures had positive effects, by reducing unfair injurious imports, particularly from China.*

*In the Annual Report, the Commission also drew attention to the importance of strengthened surveillance and enforcement of trade defence measures. As noted by the Camera dei Deputati, enforcement of trade defence measures is paramount in view of increased circumvention activities by certain economic operators in third countries. The Annual Report sets out the EU's strong response in 2019 to such practices.*

*In that context, the Commission welcomes the Camera dei Deputati's call to the Italian Government to support the Commission's monitoring efforts, and in that respect also to urge all competent national administrations to boost the effectiveness and the response ability of entities responsible for enforcing EU trade defence measures. As stated in the*

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*Annual Report, Member State entities will play a crucial role in our efforts to strengthen the enforcement of anti-dumping, anti-subsidy and safeguard measures. Here in particular, the national customs authorities will be key in scrutinising any circumvention activity by economic operators through the channelling of exports.*

*With the reform of its trade defence rules, the Commission also aims to facilitate the recourse by small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to the anti-dumping and anti-subsidy instruments, including through a number of procedural changes. The Commission particularly appreciates the Camera dei Deputati's call to the Italian Government to facilitate the implementation of the Commission's technical activities to raise awareness of trade defence instruments. The Commission will in parallel also further increase its efforts to reach SMEs more broadly.*

*With regard to the transparency and recognisability of goods produced in the European Union, the Commission has not received any complaints in that area so far. Therefore, for the Commission, new EU legislation on this matter does not appear necessary at present.*

*Concerning the counterfeiting of typical products and those under protected designations, the Commission is fully aware of the scale of the problem, including the marketing of counterfeit products on the internet. In relation to the labelling of typical products, existing legislation on food information for consumers provides a solid basis for action to be taken by Member States to block misleading labelling.*

*As regards intellectual property (IP) rights, the Commission has committed in the 'farm to fork' strategy to strengthen the geographical indications scheme (for protected designations of origin and protected geographical indications). Anti-counterfeiting measures will also feature in the comprehensive IP action plan, announced in the new industrial strategy for Europe Communication. The Commission intends to adopt the action plan before the end of the year to improve the quality and consistency of the IP framework. In particular, the Commission explores ways to step up the fight against counterfeiting by strengthening the responsibilities of online platforms through the digital services act, and by further clarifying how right holders, intermediaries and law enforcement authorities at national and EU level should act, co-operate and share data. These initiatives will build on, amongst others, the good practices reported by signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the sale of counterfeit goods on the internet and the MoU on online advertising and IP rights.*

*Concerning food fraud, the Commission is committed in the 'farm to fork' strategy to apply a zero tolerance policy with effective deterrents and to scale up its fight against food fraud to achieve a level playing field for operators and strengthen the powers of control and enforcement authorities. The Commission will work with Member States, Europol and other bodies to use data on traceability and alerts to improve coordination with regard to food fraud. The Commission is also examining the possibility of strengthening the coordination and investigative capacities of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF).*

*The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Camera dei Deputati.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič*  
*Vice-President*

*Valdis Dombrovskis*  
*Executive Vice-President*