

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002326/24
to the Commission
Hilde Vautmans (Renew)
(30 October 2024)**

Subject: Chinese dumping of citric acid

Given the situation surrounding cheap citric acid imports from China, which is putting European producers such as Citribel under severe pressure, current European import tariffs (36% on average) are clearly inadequate to ensure fair competition. Current European anti-dumping measures, such as minimum import prices or anti-dumping duties, have had little or no effect. Maintaining the present approach is not an option, especially by comparison with the much higher US import duty of 155%. Since Europe is not taking sufficient action, Chinese exporters, bolstered by their overcapacity, are increasingly focusing on the European market.

Accordingly:

1. Is the Commission prepared to consider other measures on top of the existing import duties, such as a local production quota for citric acid, given the strategic importance of this commodity?
2. What tangible steps will the Commission take to strengthen and speed up European anti-dumping legislation so that local producers such as Citribel do not have to suffer long-term losses before legal action is possible?

Submitted: 30.10.2024

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(6 January 2025)**

There are anti-dumping measures in place on imports of citric acid from China since 2008. These measures were most recently extended for a further five years, in April 2021, following an expiry review ⁽¹⁾.

These measures reflect the levels of dumping found in the context of an investigation conducted in line with World Trade Organisation and EU legislation.

Measures in place may be reviewed on request by interested parties where there are changed circumstances of a lasting nature. The Commission remains ready to review the measures on Chinese citric acid in line with the EU trade defence legislation, if it receives sufficient evidence from the European industry that there is a lasting change of circumstances undermining the effectiveness of the measures.

Without this information, the Commission's Trade Defence services are unable to address the situation. Industries affected are invited to contact the Trade Defence services to explore how to proceed.

As regards the speed of trade defence actions, in 2018 when the instruments were modernised, the time for the imposition of provisional duties was shortened by one month.

Provisional measures are now imposed eight, and in some cases seven months after initiation. Also, in October 2024 the Commission decided to register imports in all ongoing new investigations to facilitate the retroactive application of measures, i.e. before the date of provisional measures, if the legal conditions allow ⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021R0607&from=EN>

⁽²⁾ https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-register-imports-all-products-under-trade-defence-investigations-bid-fight-unfair-2024-09-24_en