

Brussels, 25.11.2015
NE/cz

Dear Lord Dartmouth,

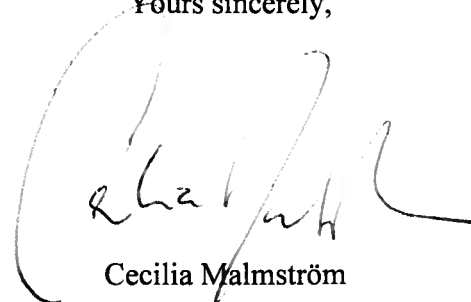
I refer to your letter of 22 October regarding imports of steel from China and particularly dumping.

I fully share your concerns regarding the steel sector in Europe and the impact which cheap imports of the products from China and other countries are having on the European steel producers. It has been indeed proven that the Chinese producers are dumping some of the excess capacities on the European market. As a result, we have currently trade defence measures in place against fourteen steel products from China. At the same time there are also a number of new investigations ongoing concerning steel products from China, which may also result in the imposition of further trade defence measures.

I assure you that the Commission is ready to open anti-dumping cases if the steel industry asks us to do so, as long as they provide us with the necessary prima facie evidence that justifies the initiation of investigations. Our trade defence services are always available to provide any guidance to the industry in relation to the trade defence process. Each and every complaint brought by the industry will be examined thoroughly.

The Commission acts as quickly as possible, however, you must appreciate that this is a process, subject to legal requirements and scrutiny, not only by the Member States, but also the Courts and in some instances the World Trade Organisation. As a result, time is needed to ensure that any action taken is in line with the legislation and our international obligations. Measures cannot be imposed without first establishing that dumping and/or subsidisation is taking place and causing injury to the European industry. That said, I assure you that where it is justified to impose measures it will be done.

Yours sincerely,



Cecilia Malmström

Mr William Dartmouth MEP
EFDD Group Coordinator on International Trade
60, Rue Wiertz – ASP 3 F 361
B-1047 Brussels