

News

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EU textile groups push to attack Chinese branded goods subsidies at the WTO

欧盟纺织品工业团体推动在世贸组织对中国名牌产品补贴的争端诉讼

European industry groups from a wide range of sectors are meeting with European Commission trade officials this week and late this month. These meetings are designed to establish whether there are legal and economic grounds to join the US and Mexico in launching legal action at the WTO against China's alleged subsidies that promote exports of Chinese branded goods, and assess what is the position of the European industries with respect to such a move.

The Commission has already met with representatives from the European textiles sector, who have pushed for such legal action against alleged Chinese export subsidies on branded goods at the WTO. The International Association of Users of Artificial and Synthetic Filament Yarns and of Natural Silk (IAUFFASS) and the Committee of the Cotton and Allied Textile Industries of the European Communities (Eurocoton) are expected to present figures to trade officials demonstrating the underlining injury to their industry resulting from alleged export subsidy schemes by Chinese government. They are expected to argue the EU should follow the US's example and start WTO negotiations with China over the issue.

Europe's chemicals industry is currently consulting with its members to determine whether the export subsidies affect their sector. Europe's machinery and farm products industry are also considering discussions with the Commission. The general consensus in the EU is that the textiles and ICT sectors are the most severely affected by China's aid programs.

欧盟各行业的协会团体本周和本月早些时候与欧盟委员会贸易官员展开会晤。这些会晤旨在确定欧盟是否拥有法律和经济依据加入美国和墨西哥行列，在世贸组织对所谓的中国促进名牌产品出口补贴行为提出争端解决，以及欧洲各行业对这种可能性所持的立场。

欧盟委员会已经与欧洲纺织品行业的代表进行了会晤。欧洲纺织品行业代表支持在世贸组织对中国向名牌产品提供出口补贴采取法律行动。国际人工合成纤维纱线和天然蚕丝用户协会 (IAUFFASS) 和欧共同体棉织品和纺织业联盟委员会 (Eurocoton) 意于向欧盟贸易官员提供数据表明所称中国政府出口补贴方案对其行业造成的损害。他们想要求欧盟参照美国的行动与中国在世贸组织框架下就此展开磋商。

欧洲化学品工业正在征询其成员的意见，确定中国出口补贴是否对他们产生了影响。欧洲机械产品和农产品行业也正考虑与欧盟委员会进行会晤。欧盟普遍认为纺织品和信息通讯科技行业受到中国补贴方案影响最为严重。

For more information on the developments related to EU actions against China and for any queries on Anti-subsidy matters please do not hesitate to contact Hammonds' trade team.

On 19 January the European Union requested observer status in the US and Mexico's WTO consultations with China that were launched last December, challenging up to 17 separate state programs alleged to illegally benefit Chinese producers of branded goods from refrigerators to beer and textiles.

It is understood that the Commission's meetings with representatives of European business and with representatives of specific sectors aim to decide what further action, if any, the EU will take. As of yet there have not been any firm deadlines established for this but it is said that the Commission seeks a swift decision so that a potential new case could join with the proceedings already underway.

In addition, it is also said that a delegation of Turkish opposition politicians have been invited to speak at the European Parliament on 10 February. They are also expected to bring up the topic of Chinese export subsidies.

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欧盟于1月19日要求在美国和墨西哥去年12月提出的在世贸组织框架下与中国进行的磋商中作为观察员身份。该项磋商指称中国17种不同的国家项目非法补贴涉及从电冰箱到啤酒和纺织品的中国名牌产品生产商。

据称，欧盟委员会与欧洲行业和特定产业代表的会晤意在决定欧盟将采取怎样的进一步行动。即便决定没有最终期限，普遍认为欧盟委员会将会尽快抉择，以便能与已经开始的案件合并裁决。

此外，据报道一个土耳其反对党代表团被邀请于2月10日在欧盟议会发表演讲。他们也会借此提出中国出口补贴的议题。

如需要有关欧盟对中国贸易救济行动的最新动向以及对反补贴事务有任何问题，欢迎随时联系希文律师事务所贸易法团队。

FURTHER INFORMATION

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