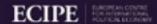
News



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ECIPE PRESS RELEASE - NEW WORKING PAPER

Assessing the Solar Energy Dispute between the European Union and the People's Republic of China

Brussels, Belgium, 4 April 2016 - The paper assesses this recent anti-dumping case in the light of a changing world economy and the current anti-dumping framework of the European Union.

China is a major trading partner of the European Union (EU), the destination of much Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) by EU firms – and by far the most targeted country of anti-dumping investigations by the EU (and other economies like the US). In the spring of 2012, the European Union and China got embroiled in a tense dispute about trade in the novel but rapidly growing solar energy field. The surge in EU imports of such goods from China – especially of solar panels used in the last stage in the production sequence of photovoltaic energy – prompted a group of EU-located producers of solar equipment to request trade defense measures from the European Commission. After conducting investigations the Commission imposed a provisional anti-dumping duty on such imports in June 2013 while threatening to impose significantly heavier levies on solar panel imports from China if no satisfactory arrangement could be found before 6 August 2013. Close to that deadline, an amicable 'understanding' was reached, whereby China agreed to reduce its overall quantity of exports to the EU and put a floor price on those exports. Thus, a major trade conflict about the largest contested trade volume ever was averted.

Publications details:

Assessing the Solar Energy Dispute between the European Union and the People's Republic of China By Sylvain Plasschaert, Honorary Professor at the University of Antwerp and at the Catholic University of Leuven

ECIPE Working Paper No. 1/2016

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