



PRESS RELEASE

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No to MES: Chinese overcapacities threaten EU non-ferrous metals production

Ahead of a key Commission debate on 20th July, Eurometaux calls on EU leaders not to let down workers in the non-ferrous metals industry by granting Market Economy Status (MES) to China. This is not only about steel. All European manufacturers need equal protection from Chinese overcapacities and dumping.

Guy Thiran, Eurometaux's Director General, stated: *"The European Commission must not grant MES to China prematurely, whatever their concessions to protect European steel production. State-supported Chinese overcapacities are just as dangerous in other metals sectors. Unlimited dumping resulting from China MES would endanger our industry and many of its 500,000 workers"*.

China's non-ferrous metals production has increased significantly over the last decade to exceed 40 million tonnes, compared to stagnant EU production at half that amount. For example, China's copper semis production is now 7 times more than in Europe.

Production increases have caused overcapacities in many metals sectors. China now has a silicon overcapacity two times higher than global consumption. Its aluminium overcapacity is five times larger than EU primary production.

As a result, Chinese exports of semi-finished metals products to Europe have increased dramatically by over 50% since 2007. China is now a net exporter into the EU.

Guy Thiran continued: *"Half measures will not work. China cannot be granted Market Economy Status until it meets the EU's own eligibility criteria. In the meantime, all European manufacturers need equal protection against unlawful Chinese dumping. Steel today could be aluminium, silicon or other metals tomorrow; we can't take that risk"*.

"We should also remember that European metals producers are now global efficiency leaders after decades of investment. Increased competition from coal-fuelled Chinese imports could upend that progress".

Eurometaux has today sent an Open Letter to all European Commissioners, urging them to maintain effective trade defence instruments for all sectors, and refrain from prematurely granting MES to China.

About Eurometaux

Eurometaux is the decisive voice of non-ferrous metals producers and recyclers in Europe. With an annual turnover of €120bn, our members represent an essential industry for European society that businesses in almost every sector depend on. Together, we are leading Europe towards a more circular future through the endlessly recyclable potential of metals.

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