WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SG/N/6/EU/6

23 November 2026

(26-8456)

Page: 1/3

Committee on Safeguards

Original: English

NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 12.1(A) OF THE AGREEMENT ON SAFEGUARDS ON INITIATION OF AN INVESTIGATION AND THE REASONS FOR IT

EUROPEAN UNION

Certain composite input materials

The following communication, dated and received on 23 November 2026, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the European Union.

Pursuant to Article 12.1(a) of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards ('Safeguards Agreement'), the European Union notifies that a safeguard investigation has been initiated as follows:

1. Specify the date when the investigation was initiated

The European Commission ('the Commission') initiated the investigation on 23 November 2026.

The Notice of Initiation of the investigation has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.[1]

If the Commission determines that the conditions to impose definitive measures are met, the Commission shall take the necessary decisions no later than nine months from the date of initiation, unless exceptional circumstances exist, in which case that time limit may be extended by no more than two months. If the time limit is extended, the Commission will publish a Notice in the *Official Journal of the European Union* setting forth the duration of the extension and a summary of the reasons. Nevertheless, in case of critical circumstances, where delay would cause damage which it would be difficult to repair, the Commission may also decide to impose provisional measures pursuant to Article 6 of the Safeguards Agreement.

2. Specify the product subject to the investigation

The product subject to this investigation consists of (1) glass fibre reinforcements ('GFR') and (2) composite manufacturing resins ('CMR'), including certain upstream inputs.

GFR comprise chopped strands (CN code 7019 11 00), rovings (CN code 7019 12 00) and mats (CN codes 7019 14 00 and 7019 15 00).

[1] OJ C, C/2026/6060, 23.11.2026.

CMR comprise:

- Epoxy resins ('ER') (CN codes 3907 30 00, ex 2910 90 00 (TARIC codes 2910 90 00 05, 2910 90 00 07), ex 3824 99 92 (TARIC codes 3824 99 92 96, 3824 99 92 99 (TARIC additional code 2554)[2]) and ex 3824 99 93 (TARIC codes 3824 99 93 10, 3824 99 93 11)), their direct upstream precursor epichlorohydrin ('EPI') (2910 30 00) and their curing agents, isophorone diamine ('IPDA') and its oligomers (ex 2921 30 99 (TARIC code 2921 30 99 15), ex 3824 99 92 (TARIC code 3824 99 92 03).

- Unsaturated polyester resins ('UPR') and vinyl ester resins ('VER') (CN codes ex 3907 91 10 (TARIC codes 3907 91 10 10, 3907 91 10 20) and ex 3907 91 90 (TARIC codes 3907 91 90 20, 3907 91 90 30)), and their direct upstream monomer maleic anhydride ('MAN') (2917 14 00).

GFR and CMR are used in the production of lightweight, high-performance composite materials, with applications in energy, infrastructure, defence, aerospace, automotive, construction and electronics.

3. Provide the reasons for the initiation of the investigation

The Commission has received a request to initiate a safeguard investigation. The analysis of the information provided in the request indicates that total imports of certain composite input materials (CIM) increased from 697,000 tonnes in 2019 to 898,000 tonnes in 2025, corresponding to an increase of 29% over this period. In the same period, the market share of imports increased from 25.9% to 38.2%, an increase of 47%, while the market share of the Union industry declined from 74.1% to 61.8%.

The increase in imports appears to be the result of unforeseen developments, notably increased production capacity in third countries and the redirection of trade flows towards the Union market. The estimated global overcapacity of approximately 13.2 million tonnes exceeds Union consumption by more than 450% and is likely to cause further injury to the Union industry, even if only part of it is redirected to the Union market. In addition, access to several third-country markets is being restricted as a result of trade defence measures, further increasing the risk of trade diversion towards the Union.

There is also sufficient evidence showing that the volumes of these imports have caused or are threatening to cause significant overall impairment of the position of the Union industry. In particular, this evidence shows that imports of the product concerned have had, among other consequences, a negative impact on the market share of the Union producers. This has put significant pressure on the Union industry's sales volumes, resulting in a negative or a low level of profit. The Union industry remains vulnerable to a further increase in imports, which is, in particular given the overall overcapacity in the global market, likely to be imminent. The investigation will examine the situation of the Union industry, also based on the most recent developments, such as any trade diversion resulting from the closure of third country markets due to trade defence measures.

[2] TARIC code that is directly followed in brackets by TARIC additional code 2554 is to be considered as one complete description.

4. Provide a point of contact for the investigation and identify the preferred means for corresponding

Commission address for correspondence:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Trade and Economic Security
Directorate G, Unit G5
Office: CHAR 05/152
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

E-mail address: TRADE-SAFEGUARD-CIM@ec.europa.eu

5. Deadlines and procedures to present evidence and views by interested parties

In order to obtain the information it deems necessary for its investigation, the Commission has published questionnaires, available at the website of the Directorate-General for Trade and Economic Security.[3] The completed questionnaires must reach the Commission within 21 days from the date of initiation.

All interested parties are invited to make known their views in writing, submit information and to provide supporting evidence. Representations in a free format should be submitted within 21 days from the date of initiation. Interested parties may make themselves known by contacting the Commission, preferably by e-mail, immediately but no later than 15 days after the date of initiation. Any submission of views and information after the above deadlines may be disregarded.

All interested parties may also apply to be heard by the Commission within 21 days of the day of initiation. All written submissions in the investigation should be filed with the Commission as set out in the Notice of Initiation.

[3] https://tron.trade.ec.europa.eu/investigations/ongoing.