

## **MMTA TRADE AND LOBBY COMMITTEE'S NEWSLETTER**

This newsletter is written in partnership with Sidley Austin LLP. It is for information only and does not necessarily represent the views of the Minor Metals Trade Association. Disclaimer at [www.mmta.co.uk](http://www.mmta.co.uk)

### **ZERO PERCENT EU IMPORT DUTIES FOR CERTAIN MINOR METALS?**

#### **1. Italy requests suspension of duties on raw materials including minor metals**

The Italian government has taken up an initiative from the Italian non-ferrous metals federation to obtain a reduction of import duties on a series of raw materials including certain minor metals, for example:

- Ferro-alloys such as ferro-silicon, ferro-chrome, ferro-molybdenum, ferro-silico-manganese, ferro-manganese, ferro-vanadium
- Aluminium
- Tungsten
- Molybdenum
- Antimony
- Zirconium
- etc.

The issue was initially presented as a technical issue for the suspension of customs duties. In the meantime it has developed into a political issue. As a result of this political move, it is sufficient that a qualified majority of the 27 Member States agree to this zero duty (the technical decision required a unanimous decision based on objective criteria).

In the past the Italian government followed the same path with respect to the import duties of aluminium. That initiative resulted in a compromise reduction of 50% of applicable duties on primary aluminium. The duty reduction for aluminium is currently up for renewal also and is included in the current initiative.

Member States such as the Netherlands, Sweden, Czech Republic and Germany have indicated their support for this Italian initiative. The Member States are likely to discuss this subject further before the end of April 2010.

#### **2. Next steps and recommended action**

The relevant producers in the EU are organizing a significant lobby at this moment in order to try to block this initiative. If MMTA members are interested in zero duties for the mentioned products, we recommend acting now to support the initiative. Two preliminary actions in this respect should be to:

1. Identify supporters of the initiative and try to coordinate and join efforts;
2. Develop a supportive statement and bring this to the attention of key decision makers in the EU Member States and the European Commission.

Please contact the [MMTA](http://www.mmta.co.uk) or [Arnoud Willems](mailto:Arnoud.Willems@mmta.co.uk) at Sidley Austin for more information.

**Sidley Austin LLP**

Square de Meeûs 35  
1000 Brussels  
Belgium  
Tel.: +32.2.504.64.00  
Fax: +32.2.504.64.01

SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP  
**SIDLEY**