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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB item for the meeting of the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council of 17 November 2025: Chinese Anti-Dumping Investigation on European Pork – The Need for a Level Playing Field - <i>Information from Belgium</i>

Since June 2024, China has been conducting an anti-dumping investigation into imports of pork and pork products from the European Union. This investigation is widely regarded as a retaliatory measure following the EU's decision to impose tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles. This is part of a broader dispute between the EU and China, which has now evolved into a serious challenge for the European agricultural sector and has the potential to undermine the unity of the Union.

The investigation officially commenced on 17 June 2024 and focuses on fresh, chilled, and frozen pork, as well as associated pork products. Due to the complexity of the case, China has decided to extend the investigation until 16 December 2025. On 5 September 2025, China published its preliminary findings, which it claims to confirm the existence of dumping. The country also announced the introduction of provisional anti-dumping tariffs. These tariffs were implemented on 10 September 2025 and vary significantly depending on the company's cooperation level during the investigation. Companies that cooperated face tariffs ranging from 15.6% to 32.7%, while non-cooperating companies are subject to a rate of 62.4%. However, companies not involved in the initial investigation were subject to the rate of 62.4%.

The impact on Belgium is particularly severe and demonstrates the broader European challenge. In ordinary circumstances, Belgium exports a considerable volume of pork and pork products to China on an annual basis. Primarily, these consist of so-called "fifth quarter" cuts, for which there is negligible domestic demand. This trade is essential to ensure full carcass valorisation and to avoid food waste. However, due to an outbreak of African Swine Fever in 2018, exports did not resume until February 2024. Due to the embargo that was in place at the time, Belgian exporters were unable to participate in the investigation, resulting in the Belgian companies being subject to the tariff rate of non-cooperating companies. This tariff of 62.4% will render exports to China economically unviable. It is anticipated that trade will be brought to a halt, which will result in the loss of essential premium that frequently dictates profitability for pig farmers. This will lead to price pressure on the domestic market, a severe impact on farmers income, and negative consequences for employment throughout the supply chain.

The public hearing held on 31 October 2025 in Beijing provided the EU, its Member States and the sector with a first opportunity to present their side of the case. While a final decision is expected in December 2025, this does not lessen the impact the sector is currently experiencing.

This situation calls for a strong and unified European response. Belgium therefore urges the Commission to:

- Intensify diplomatic efforts to reach a resolution and prevent further escalation of the trade conflict.
- Insist that all Member States as well as companies face an equal burden in the Chinese investigation. It is essential that the EU ensures a level playing field for all Member States. The current system of differentiated tariffs plays directly into China's hands and poses a direct threat to European solidarity, and to the integrity of our common trade policy and the internal market.
- Consider exploring emergency measures and support programs for the sectors most affected in case of a continued uneven playing field.

The Chinese anti-dumping investigation represents a serious threat to the European agricultural sector and to the solidarity of the Union. Only a coordinated and united approach can avoid an increasing pressure on the market and a severe impact on the Belgian and European farming sector. We count on your support to safeguard a level playing field and defend the interests of the agricultural sector.
