

THE EUROPEAN UNION DISADVANTAGES THE POWER TRANSFORMER INDUSTRY. THE EXPECTED LEVEL OF DUTIES IS UNACCEPTABLE FOR GUARANTEEING THE SECTOR COMPETITIVENESS.

A proposal by The European Commission aims at introducing antidumping duties on the import of grain-oriented electrical steels.

Milan, 27th April 2015 – The European Commission is going to enact temporary measures in order to disincentivize European manufacturers of power and distribution transformers, undermining the global competitiveness. It is the measure provided with respects to the antidumping procedure initialized the last 14th August against the import of grain-oriented electrical steels used in the construction of power transformers from China, Korea, Japan, Russia and the USA.

The temporary duties proposed by the European Commission (28,7% on the Chinese products, between 34,2% and 35,9% on the Japanese products, 22,8% on the Korean products, 21,6% on the Russian products, and 22% on the American products), which will be officially enacted within the next 14th May 2015, would be a serious damage for the Italian and European industry of power transformers, since it would excessively facilitate the extra-European manufacturers of transformers. In fact they would not be subject to duties on this product, so they could supply transformers characterised by more competitive prices compared with those of the European manufacturers, causing in this way very serious economic and social consequences.

In Italy the industry of transformers occupies about 4.000 direct employees accounting a turnover of about 600 million of Euro per year, of which more than 60% to export. It is possible to estimate similar amounts also with regard to the sector of linked industries.

The Italian manufacturers of transformers have developed high-level technological competences, significantly imposing on world markets with their truly innovative products. The emanation of Commission Regulation (EU) No 548/2014 on implementing Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to small, medium and large power transformers establishes that from the 1st July 2015 only the transformers with low loss level will be admitted in the European market. In order to respect this rule, the use of high permeability and/or laser treated grain-oriented electrical steels is necessary. The increase of the request of that kind of materials will be hardly satisfied by the European supplier of steels; moreover it is important to consider that the quality of the products is a distinctive characteristic, proper to some electrical steel manufacturers in third countries.

It is already possible to note the first consequences of the measures (although not yet official) that the European Commission intends to assume: price increasing and difficult procurement of material. Anie Federation requires attention by institutions toward a strategic sector for power system as well as operators of industrial and energy sectors, who represent a global excellence.

ANIE Energia is part of ANIE Confindustria, with 220 member companies and more than 20,000 employees representing the companies that produce, distribute and install devices, components and systems for the power generation, transmission and distribution . ANIE Confindustria, with 1,200 member companies and about 410,000 employees, represents the Italian Electrical Engineering and Electronic Industry , one of the most strategic and advanced sector among the Italian Industry, with a total turnover of 56 billion of Euro (of which 29 billion are generated by export). The member companies invest 4% of their turnover in Research and Development, representing more than 30% of total investments in R&D by private sector in Italy.