



# ***Economic & Trade Alerts***

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## ***Weekly***

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## 1. Economic and Trade Friction Cases about China

### 1.1 U.S. Launches Anti-dumping and Anti-subsidy Sunset Review of Industrial Damage Investigation on Chinese Sodium Gluconate, Gluconic Acid, and Derivative Products

On January 11, 2024, the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) issued a notice, initiating an anti-dumping and anti-subsidy sunset review of industrial damage investigation on Sodium Gluconate, Gluconic Acid, and Derivative Products imported from China, to examine whether material damage to the U.S. industry would continue or recur if existing anti-dumping and anti-subsidy measures were eliminated. Stakeholders should submit comments to the USITC by February 22, 2024.

(Translated from China Trade Remedies Information. All information is authentic in Chinese. English is provided for reference only.)

### 1.2 U.S. Institutes Section 337 Investigation of Certain Electronic Computing Devices, and Components and Modules Thereof

On January 11, 2024, the USITC voted to institute a section 337 investigation (Investigation Code: 337-TA-1387) on certain Certain Electronic Computing Devices, and Components and Modules Thereof. Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson of Sweden filed a 337 investigation application to the USITC On December 12, 2023, and supplemented it on January 2, 2024. It claimed that the products imported and sold in the U.S. violated the U.S. Section 337, and requested the USITC to issue a permanent limited exclusion order and permanent cease and desist orders. Six companies of China and the U.S. were listed as respondents.

(Translated from China Trade Remedies Information. All information is authentic in Chinese. English is provided for reference only.)

### **1.3 U.S. Issues Initial Final Decision of Section 337 on Certain Semiconductor Devices, and Methods of Manufacturing Same and Products Containing the Same**

On January 11, 2024, the USITC issued a notice, stating that it had issued an initial final determination of Section 337 on Certain Semiconductor Devices, and Methods of Manufacturing Same and Products Containing the Same (Investigation Code: 337-TA-1366). Based on the notice, the Administrative Law Judge's Initial Determination (No. 9) of Dec. 13, 2023 in this case was not subject to review, due to the withdrawal of the complaint, and the investigation of U.S. Registered Patent No. 9,748,347 was terminated thereby. Two companies of China and the U.S. were listed as respondents.

(Translated from China Trade Remedies Information. All information is authentic in Chinese. English is provided for reference only.)

### **1.4 U.S. Issues Initial Final Decision of Section 337 on Certain Wi-Fi Routers, Wi-Fi Devices, Mesh Wi-Fi Network Devices, and Hardware and Software Components Thereof**

On January 16, 2024, the USITC issued a notice, stating that it had issued an initial final decision of Section 337 on Certain Wi-Fi Routers, Wi-Fi Devices, Mesh Wi-Fi Network Devices, and Hardware and Software Components Thereof (Investigation Code: 337-TA-1361). Based on the notice, the Administrative Law Judge's Initial Determination (No. 31) of December 13, 2023 in this case was not subject to review, due to the withdrawal of the complaint, and the investigation of U.S. Registered Patent No. 9,468,025, 10,356,681, and 10,327,242 were terminated thereby. Four companies of China and the U.S. were listed as respondents.

(Translated from China Trade Remedies Information. All information is authentic in Chinese. English is provided for reference only.)

### **1.5 U.S. Launches Second Anti-dumping Sunset Review of Industrial Damage Investigation on Chinese Xanthan Gum**

On January 12, 2024, the USITC issued a notice, stating that it had initiated a second anti-dumping sunset review of industrial damage investigation on Xanthan Gum imported from China, to examine whether substantial damage to the U.S. industry of imported subject products was likely to continue or recur for a reasonably foreseeable period of time if the existing anti-dumping measures were eliminated. Stakeholders should submit their responses by March 7, 2024 to the USITC.

(Translated from China Trade Remedies Information. All information is authentic in Chinese. English is provided for reference only.)

### **1.6 EU Launches Second Anti-dumping Sunset Review Investigation on Chinese Aluminum Radiators**

On January 12, 2024, the European Commission (EU) issued a notice, stating that it had initiated a second anti-dumping sunset review investigation on Aluminum Radiators originating from China at the request of AIRAL s.c.r.l. filed on October 16, 2023. The EU CN Codes of involved products were ex7615 1010, ex7615 1080, ex7616 9910 and ex7616 9990 (TARIC Codes 7615 1010 10, 7615 1080 10, 7616 9910 91, 7616 9990 01, and 7616 9990).

(Translated from China Trade Remedies Information. All information is authentic in Chinese. English is provided for reference only.)

### **1.7 EU Issues Final Anti-dumping Decision on Chinese Steel Bulb Flats**

On January 11, 2024, the EU issued a notice, stating a final affirmative anti-dumping determination on Steel Bulb Flats originating from China and Turkey, ruling that the anti-dumping duty to Changshu Longteng

Special Steel Co., Ltd. and other Chinese enterprises was 23.0%. The products involved were non-alloy Steel Bulb Flats in the range up to 204 mm width. The EU CN Code of involved products was ex 7216 50 91 (TARIC Code 7216 50 91 10). The measures came into force since the next day of its announcement.

(Translated from China Trade Remedies Information. All information is authentic in Chinese. English is provided for reference only.)

### **1.8 Korea Launches Anti-dumping Investigation on Chinese PET Resin**

On January 12, 2024, the Korea Trade Commission (KTC) issued the Notice No. 2024-1 (Case No. 23-2024-1), stating that it had initiated an anti-dumping investigation on PET Resin or Polyethylene Terephthalate Resin originating from China, at the request of an application filed by a Korean enterprise TK Chemical Co., Ltd. The Korean Customs Code of involved products was 3907.61.0000. HAINAN YISHENG PETROCHEMICAL CO LTD., CHINA RESOURCES CHEMICAL INNOVATIVE MATERIALS CO LTD., YISHENG DAHUA PETROCHEMICAL CO LTD. and ZHUHAI CHINA RESOURCES CHEMICAL INNOVATIVE MATERIALS CO LTD. were involved. The announcement came into force since the date of its publication. Unless otherwise extended, the preliminary ruling will be made within three months.

(Translated from China Trade Remedies Information. All information is authentic in Chinese. English is provided for reference only.)

### **1.9 India Decides to Continue Imposing Anti-dumping Duty on Chinese Meta Phenylene Diamine**

On January 15, 2024, the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance of India issued the Circular No. 1/2024-Customs (ADD), stating that it

accepted the advice from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I) of India on October 23, 2023, for the final determination of second anti-dumping sunset review on Meta Phenylene Diamine (MPDA) originating or imported from China. It decided to continue imposing the anti-dumping duty on the products in question from China for a period of five years. The duty to the involved manufacture of Zhejiang Amino-Chem Co., Ltd. was US\$1.50 per ton and to other Chinese manufactures was US\$1.71 per ton.

MPDA, also known as m-phenylenediamine, 1, 3-diaminobenzene, 1, 3-phenylenediamine, m-phenylenediamine, m-phenylenediamine, 1, 3-phenylenediamine, 3-aminophenyl, m-diphenylenediamine, m-phenylenediamine, and m-amino-phenylenediamine. The measures came into force since the date of its publication on the Official Gazette.

(Translated from China Trade Remedies Information. All information is authentic in Chinese. English is provided for reference only.)

## 2. China Policies/Regulations

### 2.1 China Renews Tax Policy Guidelines on Stabilizing Foreign Investment, Trade

China on Tuesday released updated tax policy guidelines on stabilizing foreign investment and foreign trade to create a favorable tax environment for their development.

The updated version of the guidelines consists of 51 items covering the two major fields of foreign investment and foreign trade, according to the State Taxation Administration.

In breakdown, 19 measures are related to stabilizing foreign trade, including policies on goods and service exports, value-added tax policies on cross-border taxable activities, policies for new forms of foreign trade,

and policies to facilitate export tax rebates and exemptions.

A total of 32 measures are issued to stabilize foreign investment, such as policies on encouraging foreign investment, said the administration.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

## **2.2 China to Step up Prosecutorial Protection for Enterprises**

In the latest initiative to cultivate a more law-based business environment, China's Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP) has announced the launch of a targeted campaign to bolster prosecutorial protection for enterprises.

Under the campaign, supervision over case-filing related to enterprises and economic crimes will be enhanced, the SPP said at a national procurators' conference running from Sunday to Monday.

The SPP said that it will continue to implement prosecutorial policies that aim to promote the development of the private economy while addressing and preventing crimes committed by key personnel in private enterprises against the interests of these enterprises.

The SPP pledged more efforts to punish crimes that disrupt the order of the market economy, strengthen judicial actions against monopoly and unfair competition, and collaborate to improve the judicial system for protecting property rights.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

## **2.3 China Vows Supportive Policies, Optimized Services for Foreign Investors**

China will continue to introduce supportive policies and optimize services for foreign investors, a government official said on Thursday.

Liu Sushe, deputy head of the National Development and Reform

Commission (NDRC), China's top economic planner, said that the NDRC, together with relevant departments, will promptly introduce relevant policies, including revising a nationwide negative list for foreign investment access and removing all restrictions on foreign investment access in the manufacturing sector.

In addition, the NDRC will engage in a series of activities aimed at international industrial investment promotion and develop a business match-making platform to connect multinationals and investment destinations, Liu said.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

### 3. China Economic and Trade Information

#### 3.1 China Unveils more Innovations from Pilot FTZs

China's Ministry of Commerce (MOC) has unveiled 47 new institutional innovations from the nation's pilot free trade zones (FTZs).

The institutional innovations, comprising 23 best practice cases and 24 items of pilot reform experience, will serve as a reference across the country to deepen reform and expand opening up in relevant fields, according to the MOC.

The best practice cases mainly cover the fields of trade facilitation, transformation of government functions, factor resource security and high-quality industrial development, it said.

The pilot reform experience mainly focuses on areas including foreign investment access, scientific and technological innovation, environmental protection, transportation and finance, according to the ministry.

So far, China's pilot FTZs have seen the successful practice in 349 cases

of innovation in institutional reform promoted at the national level, according to the MOC.

(Edited from China Daily.)

### **3.2 Globally Aligned Rules Yardstick in Opening-up**

The annual tone-setting Central Economic Work Conference held in December listed high-standard opening-up as one of the nine priorities in economic work in 2024.

According to the meeting, efforts must be made to foster new drivers of foreign trade, consolidate the overall performance of foreign trade as well as capital, and expand intermediate goods trade, services trade, digital trade and cross-border e-commerce exports.

In fact, China has been shifting the focus of openness from trading of goods and freeing the movement of resources toward institutional opening-up.

The key task for opening-up in the next stage is to continuously expand high-level openness, like accelerating the cultivation of green trade to boost the real economy, expediting the development of green trade to make "green" the underlying factor across the entire trade chain, and actively aligning with international high-standard economic and trade rules to steadily expand high-level institutional opening-up.

(Edited from China Daily.)

### **3.3 China Edges Closer to Upgrading Free Trade Agreement with Switzerland for Deeper Collaboration**

China and Switzerland announced on Monday the completion of the joint feasibility study on upgrading the bilateral free trade agreement (FTA), an important stride towards negotiations and deeper economic cooperation.

During talks between visiting Chinese Premier Li Qiang and President of the Swiss Confederation Viola Amherd on Monday, the two sides agreed on the early launch of formal negotiations on upgrading the FTA.

China and Switzerland have been committed to nurturing strong economic ties. In 2022, two-way trade amounted to 57.3 billion U.S. dollars, up by 30 percent year on year, according to statistics from China's General Administration of Customs.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

### **3.4 Chinese Enterprises Investing More in Intellectual Property**

In the initial stages of traditional business strategies, enterprises tend to spend money on marketing for fast returns, but an increasing number of Chinese startups are now willing to invest in intellectual property despite a longer period before they see returns.

While enterprises actively engage in IP investment, the Chinese government has been steadfastly fortifying IP legislation, amending patent laws, and rigorously penalizing illicit activities such as patent infringement. IP regulators have established protection centers to provide low-cost, expeditious and efficient services for small enterprises to solve their IP problems.

And these endeavors have garnered international recognition. China ranked 12th on the Global Innovation Index 2023, released by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and has the largest number of sci-tech clusters globally. At the second WIPO Global Awards, seven small and medium-sized enterprises were honored, with China securing two of these awards — ranking first among all countries.

(Edited from Xinhua.)



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