

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3000/02

by Sir Robert Atkins (PPE-DE), Guido Bodrato (PPE-DE) and Malcolm Harbour (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Unfair competition on the market for aluminium scrap

The OEA (Organisation of European Aluminium Refiners and Remelters), an organisation representing 175 companies which produced a total of approximately 2 900 000 tonnes of aluminium in 2001, has drawn attention to the situation set out below.

Aluminium scrap prices are more or less the same everywhere on the world market. However, Russia and Ukraine are out of step with the market price, given that in 2000 Ukraine imposed a total ban on exports of aluminium scrap and that Russia has steadily increased the duties it levies, thus making it impossible for European producers to obtain supplies on these markets. This situation is distorting competition: Ukrainian producers have a ready supply of cheap scrap on their domestic market and face no competition whatsoever, while the duty payable on imports into the EU of alloys produced in Russia and Ukraine stands at 6%.

In view of the wholly justified concern expressed by the OEA, how does the Commission intend to put an end to this serious distortion of competition?

Would it not agree that it should propose that the barriers imposed by Russia (30% duty) and Ukraine to trade in scrap should be removed, that the duty levied be brought into line with that in force for imports of finished products into the EU market (6%) or even that, taking a leaf out of the USA's book, a 100% levy should be imposed on imports of aluminium alloys for pressure die casting produced in Ukraine and Russia?