C/2026/3105

10.6.2026

Notice of initiation of interim review of the anti-dumping measures applicable to imports of aspartame originating in the People's Republic of China

(C/2026/3105)

The European Commission ('the Commission') has received a request for a partial interim review pursuant to Article 11(3) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1036 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2016 on protection against dumped imports from countries not members of the European Union ([1]) ('the basic Regulation').

1. Request for review

The request was lodged on 14 April 2026 by HSWT France S.A.S ('the applicant') on behalf of the Union industry of aspartame in the sense of Article 5(4) of the basic Regulation.

The review is limited in scope to the examination of injury. If the Commission concludes that the level of the current measures is not sufficient to remove the material injury suffered by the Union industry, it may decide to assess Union interest.

An open version of the request and the analysis of the degree of support by Union producers for the request are available in the file for inspection by interested parties. Section 5.4 of this Notice provides information about access to the file for interested parties.

2. Product under review

The product subject to this review is aspartame (N-L-α- Aspartyl-L-phenylalanine-1-methyl ester, 3-amino-N-(α-carbomethoxy-phenethyl)-succinamic acid-N-methyl ester), CAS RN 22839-47-0 ('the product under review').

The product concerned is the product under review currently falling under CN Code ex 2924 29 70 (TARIC code 2924 29 70 05) ('product concerned'). The CN and TARIC codes are given for information only without prejudice to a subsequent change in the tariff classification.

3. Existing measures

The measures currently in force are a definitive anti-dumping duty imposed by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/2001 ([2]).

4. Grounds for the review

The request is based on sufficient evidence provided by the applicant that the circumstances on the basis of which the existing measures were imposed have changed and that these changes are of a lasting nature. These changes relate to the structure of the Union industry as well as the build-up of massive overcapacities of aspartame in the PRC since the original investigation.

The applicant provided evidence that the EU industry underwent structural changes compared to the initial investigation. Indeed, during the initial investigation, the applicant was part of the multinational Ajinomoto Group, whereas now it is a stand-alone company since January 2019. With the separation of the applicant from the Ajinomoto group, all of the integration into the global conglomerate disappeared. Since then HSWT France SAS operates as a stand-alone company which changed its production process and associated costs of production.

([1]) OJ L 176, 30.6.2016, p. 21, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/1036/oj.

([2]) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/2001 of 21 October 2022 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of aspartame originating in the People's Republic of China, following an expiry review pursuant to Article 11(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1036 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 274, 24.10.2022, p. 24).

In addition, the applicant provided sufficient evidence that since the original investigation there has been a significant growth in the aspartame Chinese industry in terms of the existing production capacities of the product concerned. This was also confirmed by the findings of the recent expiry review investigation, described in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/2001. The applicant further claimed that the increased Chinese overcapacities have led prices to drop significantly.

As a result, despite the measures in place and due to the overcapacities built up, Chinese imports have increased significantly in terms of volumes and market share at injurious price levels, thereby causing material injury to the Union industry. The continuing price depression exerted by exporting producers from the PRC has had negative effects on the market share held by the Union producers, employment, and the financial performance of the companies represented by the applicant.

Therefore, the applicant alleges that the continued imposition of the measures at the existing levels no longer offset the effects of injurious dumping as previously established.

5. **Procedure**

Having determined, after informing the Member States, that sufficient evidence exists to justify the initiation of a partial interim review limited to the examination of injury, the Commission hereby initiates a review in accordance with Article 11(3) of the basic Regulation. The purpose of the review is to establish the rate of injury and, if appropriate, to assess Union interest. In order to establish whether there has been a change of lasting nature, the Commission will assess, in particular, the current production capacities and overcapacities in the PRC and the imports price from the PRC.

5.1. ***Review investigation period***

The investigation will cover the period from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025 ('the review investigation period'). The examination of trends relevant for the assessment of injury will cover the period from 1 January 2022 to the end of the investigation period ('the period considered').

5.2. ***Comments on the request and the initiation of the investigation***

All interested parties wishing to comment on the request or any aspects regarding the initiation of the investigation (including the degree of support for the request) must do so within 37 days of the date of publication of this Notice in the *Official Journal of the European Union* ([3]).

Any request for a hearing with regard to the initiation of the investigation must be submitted within 15 days of the date of publication of this Notice.

5.3. ***Procedure for the determination of injury***

5.3.1. *Investigating Union producers*

A determination of injury is based on positive evidence and involves an objective examination of the volume of the dumped imports, their effect on prices on the Union market and the consequent impact of those imports on the Union industry. In order to establish whether the Union industry is injured, Union producers of the product under investigation are invited to participate in the Commission investigation.

In order to obtain information, it deems necessary for its investigation with regard to Union producers, the Commission will make available questionnaires to the known Union producers or/and associations of Union producers, namely to HSWT France SAS.

The aforementioned Union producer must submit the completed questionnaire within 37 days of the date of publication of this Notice, unless otherwise specified.

Union producers and representative associations not listed above are invited to contact the Commission, preferably by email, immediately but no later than 7 days after the publication of this Notice, unless otherwise specified, in order to make themselves known and request a questionnaire.

([3]) All references to the publication of this Notice will be references to publication of this Notice in the *Official Journal of the European Union*, unless otherwise specified.

In view of the limited number of known Union producers contained in the complaint, this Notice was prepared without foreseeing a sample. However, should the circumstances change the Commission reserves the right to resort to sampling in accordance with Article 17 of the basic Regulation.

All known Union producers and associations of Union producers would be notified by the Commission of the companies finally selected to be in the sample.

A copy of the questionnaire for Union producers is available in the file for inspection by interested parties and on DG Trade and Economic Security's website https://tron.trade.ec.europa.eu/investigations/case-view?caseId=2874

5.3.2. *Investigating exporting producers in the country concerned*

The investigation of exporting producers will be limited to determining the export prices to the Union, production and production capacities of the product concerned.

In view of the potentially large number of exporting producers in the country concerned involved in this interim review and in order to complete the investigation within the statutory time limits, the Commission may limit the exporting producers to be investigated to a reasonable number by selecting a sample (this process is also referred to as 'sampling'). The sampling will be carried out in accordance with Article 17 of the basic Regulation.

In order to enable the Commission to decide whether sampling is necessary, and if so, to select a sample, all exporting producers, or representatives acting on their behalf, including the ones who did not cooperate in the investigation leading to the measures subject to the present review, are hereby requested to provide the Commission with information on their companies within 7 days of the date of publication of this Notice. This information must be provided via TRON.tdi at the following address: https://tron.trade.ec.europa.eu/tron/tdi/form/R857_SAMPLING_FORM_FOR_EXPORTING_PRODUCER. Tron access information can be found in sections 5.4 and 5.7 below.

In order to obtain the information it deems necessary for the selection of the sample of exporting producers, the Commission will also contact the authorities of the country concerned and may contact any known associations of exporting producers in the country concerned.

If a sample is necessary, the exporting producers will be selected based on the largest representative volume of production, sales or exports, which can reasonably be investigated within the time available. All known exporting producers in the country concerned, the authorities of the country concerned and associations of exporting producers will be notified by the Commission, via the authorities of the country concerned if appropriate, of the companies selected to be in the sample.

Once the Commission has received the necessary information to select a sample of exporting producers, it will inform the parties concerned of its decision whether they are included in the sample. The sampled exporting producers will have to submit a completed questionnaire within 30 days from the date of notification of the decision of their inclusion in the sample, unless otherwise specified.

The Commission will add a note to the file for inspection by interested parties reflecting the sample selection. Any comment on the sample selection must be received within 3 days of the date of notification of the sample decision.

A copy of the questionnaire for exporting producers in the country concerned is available in the file for inspection by interested parties and on DG Trade and Economic Security's website https://tron.trade.ec.europa.eu/investigations/case-view?caseId=2874

Without prejudice to the possible application of Article 18 of the basic Regulation, companies that have agreed to their possible inclusion in the sample but are not selected to be in the sample will be considered to be cooperating.

5.3.3. *Investigating unrelated importers* ([4]) ([5])

Unrelated importers of the product under review from the PRC to the Union, including those that did not cooperate in the investigation leading to the measures in force, are invited to participate in this investigation.

In view of the potentially large number of unrelated importers involved in this interim review and in order to complete the investigation within the statutory time limits, the Commission may limit to a reasonable number the unrelated importers that will be investigated by selecting a sample (this process is also referred to as 'sampling'). The sampling will be carried out in accordance with Article 17 of the basic Regulation.

In order to enable the Commission to decide whether sampling is necessary and, if so, to select a sample, all unrelated importers, or representatives acting on their behalf, including the ones who did not cooperate in the investigation leading to the measures subject to the present review, are hereby requested to make themselves known to the Commission. These parties must do so within 7 days of the date of publication of this Notice by providing the Commission with the information on their company(ies) requested in the Annex to this Notice.

In order to obtain information it deems necessary for the selection of the sample of unrelated importers, the Commission may also contact any known associations of importers.

If a sample is necessary, the importers may be selected based on the largest representative volume of sales of the product under review from the PRC to the Union that can reasonably be investigated within the time available. All known unrelated importers and associations of importers will be notified by the Commission of the companies selected to be in the sample.

The Commission will also add a note to the file for inspection by interested parties reflecting the sample selection. Any comment on the sample selection must be received within 3 days of the date of notification of the sample decision.

In order to obtain the information it deems necessary for its investigation, the Commission will make available questionnaires to the sampled unrelated importers. Those parties must submit a completed questionnaire within 30 days from the date of the notification of the sample selection, unless otherwise specified.

A copy of the questionnaire for unrelated importers is available in the file for inspection by interested parties and on DG Trade and Economic Security's website https://tron.trade.ec.europa.eu/investigations/case-view?caseId=2874

5.4. ***Procedure for the assessment of Union interest***

Should the Commission conclude that the level of the current measures are not sufficient to remove the material injury suffered by the Union industry, a decision will be reached, pursuant to Article 21 of the basic Regulation, as to whether the adoption of anti-dumping measures would not be in the Union interest. Union producers, importers and their representative associations, users and their representative associations, trade unions and representative consumer

([4]) Only importers not related to producers in the country concerned can be sampled. Importers that are related to producers have to fill in Annex I to the questionnaire for these producers. In accordance with Article 127 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2447 of 24 November 2015 laying down detailed rules for implementing certain provisions of Regulation (EU) No 952/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the Union Customs Code, two persons shall be deemed to be related if: (a) they are officers or directors of the other person's business; (b) they are legally recognised partners in business; (c) they are employer and employee; (d) a third party directly or indirectly owns, controls or holds 5 % or more of the outstanding voting stock or shares of both of them; (e) one of them directly or indirectly controls the other; (f) both of them are directly or indirectly controlled by a third person; (g) together they control a third person directly or indirectly; or (h) they are members of the same family (OJ L 343, 29.12.2015, p. 558). Persons shall be deemed to be members of the same family only if they stand in any of the following relationships to one another: (i) husband and wife, (ii) parent and child, (iii) brother and sister (whether by whole or half blood), (iv) grandparent and grandchild, (v) uncle or aunt and nephew or niece, (vi) parent-in-law and son-in-law or daughter-in-law, (vii) brother-in-law and sister-in-law. In accordance with Article 5(4) of Regulation (EU) No 952/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the Union Customs Code, "person" means a natural person, a legal person, and any association of persons which is not a legal person but which is recognised under Union or national law as having the capacity to perform legal acts (OJ L 269, 10.10.2013, p. 1).

([5]) The data provided by unrelated importers may also be used in relation to aspects of this investigation other than the determination of dumping.

organisations are invited to provide the Commission with information as to whether the imposition of measures is not in the Union interest. In order to participate in the investigation, the representative consumer organisations have to demonstrate that there is an objective link between their activities and the product under investigation.

Information concerning the assessment of Union interest must be provided within 37 days of the date of publication of this Notice unless otherwise specified. This information may be provided either in a free format or by completing a questionnaire prepared by the Commission. A copy of the questionnaires, including the questionnaire for users of the product under investigation, is available in the file for inspection by interested parties and on DG Trade and Economic Security's website https://tron.trade.ec.europa.eu/investigations/case-view?caseId=2874. The information submitted pursuant to Article 21 of the basic Regulation will only be considered if supported by factual evidence at the time of submission.

5.5. *Interested parties*

In order to participate in the investigation, interested parties, such as exporting producers, Union producers, importers and their representative associations, users and their representative associations, trade unions and representative consumer organisations first have to demonstrate that there is an objective link between their activities and the product under review produced by the Union industry or the product concerned placed on the Union market.

Producers in the country concerned, Union producers, importers and representative associations who made information available will be considered as interested parties if there is an objective link between their activities and the product under review produced by the Union industry or the product concerned placed on the Union market.

The other parties mentioned in the first paragraph of this section will only be able to participate in the investigation as interested party from the moment they make themselves known, and provided that there is an objective link between their activities and the product under review produced by the Union industry or the product concerned placed on the Union market. Being considered as an interested party is without prejudice to the application of Article 18 of the basic Regulation..

Access to the file available for inspection for interested parties is made via Tron.tdi at the following address: https://tron.trade.ec.europa.eu/tron/TDI. Please follow the instructions on that page to get access ([6]).

5.6. *Other written submissions*

Subject to the provisions of this Notice, all interested parties are hereby invited to make their views known, submit information and provide supporting evidence. Unless otherwise specified, this information and supporting evidence must reach the Commission within 37 days of the date of publication of this Notice.

5.7. *Possibility to be heard by the Commission investigation services*

All interested parties may request to be heard by the Commission investigation services. Any request to be heard must be made in writing and must specify the reasons for the request as well as a summary of what the interested party wishes to discuss during the hearing. The hearing will be limited to the issues set out by the interested parties in writing beforehand.

In principle, hearings will not be used to present factual information which is not yet on file. Nevertheless, in the interest of good administration and to enable Commission services to progress with the investigation, interested parties may be directed to provide new factual information after a hearing.

([6]) In case of technical problems please contact the Trade Service Desk by email trade-service-desk@ec.europa.eu or by telephone +32 22979797.

5.8. ***Instructions for making written submissions and sending completed questionnaires and correspondence***

Information submitted to the Commission for the purpose of trade defence investigations shall be free from copyrights. Interested parties, before submitting to the Commission information and/or data which is subject to third party copyrights, must request specific permission to the copyright holder explicitly allowing the Commission a) to use the information and data for the purpose of this trade defence proceeding and b) to provide the information and/or data to interested parties to this investigation in a form that allows them to exercise their rights of defence.

All written submissions, including the information requested in this Notice, completed questionnaires and correspondence provided by interested parties for which confidential treatment is requested shall be labelled 'Sensitive' ([7]). Parties submitting information in the course of this investigation are invited to reason their request for confidential treatment.

Parties providing 'Sensitive' information are required to furnish non-confidential summaries of it pursuant to Article 19(2) of the basic Regulation, which will be labelled 'For inspection by interested parties'. These summaries must be sufficiently detailed to permit a reasonable understanding of the substance of the information submitted in confidence. If a party providing confidential information fails to show good cause for a confidential treatment request or does not furnish a non-confidential summary of it in the requested format and quality, the Commission may disregard such information unless it can be satisfactorily demonstrated from appropriate sources that the information is correct.

Interested parties are invited to make all submissions and requests via TRON.tdi (https://tron.trade.ec.europa.eu/tron/TDI) including requests to be registered as interested parties, scanned powers of attorney and certification sheets. By using TRON.tdi or email, interested parties express their agreement with the rules applicable to electronic submissions contained in the document 'CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IN TRADE DEFENCE CASES' published on the website of the Directorate-General for Trade and Economic Security: https://europa.eu/!7tHpY3. The interested parties must indicate their name, address, telephone and a valid email address and they should ensure that the provided email address is a functioning official business email which is checked on a daily basis. Once contact details are provided, the Commission will communicate with interested parties by TRON.tdi or email only, unless they explicitly request to receive all documents from the Commission by another means of communication or unless the nature of the document to be sent requires the use of a registered mail. For further rules and information concerning correspondence with the Commission including principles that apply to submissions via TRON.tdi and by email, interested parties should consult the communication instructions with interested parties referred to above.

Commission address for correspondence:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Trade and Economic Security
Directorate G
Office: CHAR 04/039
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

TRON. tdi: https://tron.trade.ec.europa.eu/tron/tdi

Email: TRADE-R857-ASPARTAME-INJURY@ec.europa.eu

6. **Schedule of the investigation**

The investigation shall normally be concluded within 12 months and in any event no later than 15 months from the date of the publication of this Notice, pursuant to Article 11(5) of the basic Regulation.

([7]) A 'Sensitive' document is a document which is considered confidential pursuant to Article 19 of the basic Regulation and Article 6 of the WTO Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the GATT 1994 (Anti-Dumping Agreement). It is also a document protected pursuant to Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43).

7. **Submission of information**

As a rule, interested parties may only submit information in the timeframes specified in section 5 of this Notice.

In order to complete the investigation within the mandatory deadlines, the Commission will not accept submissions from interested parties after the deadline to provide comments on the final disclosure or, if applicable, after the deadline to provide comments on the additional final disclosure.

8. **Possibility to comment on other parties' submissions**

In order to guarantee the rights of defence, interested parties should have the possibility to comment on information submitted by other interested parties. When doing so, interested parties may only address issues raised in the other interested parties' submissions and may not raise new issues.

Comments on the information provided by other interested parties in reaction to the disclosure of the findings should be submitted within 5 days from the deadline to comment on the findings, unless otherwise specified. If there is an additional final disclosure, comments on the information provided by other interested parties in reaction to this further disclosure should be made within 1 day from the deadline to comment on this further disclosure, unless otherwise specified.

The outlined timeframe is without prejudice to the Commission's right to request additional information from interested parties in duly justified cases.

9. **Extension to time limits specified in this Notice**

Any extension to the time limits provided for in this Notice should only be requested in exceptional circumstances and will only be granted if duly justified. In any event, any extensions to the deadline to reply to questionnaires will be limited normally to 3 days, and as a rule will not exceed 7 days. Regarding time limits for the submission of other information specified in the Notice of initiation, extensions will be limited to 3 days unless exceptional circumstances are demonstrated.

10. **Non-cooperation**

In cases where any interested party refuses access to or does not provide the necessary information within the time limits, or significantly impedes the investigation, findings, affirmative or negative, may be made on the basis of facts available, in accordance with Article 18 of the basic Regulation.

Where it is found that any interested party has supplied false or misleading information, the information may be disregarded and use may be made of facts available.

If an interested party does not cooperate or cooperates only partially and findings are therefore based on facts available in accordance with Article 18 of the basic Regulation, the result may be less favourable to that party than if it had cooperated.

Failure to give a computerised response shall not be deemed to constitute non-cooperation, provided that the interested party shows that presenting the response as requested would result in an unreasonable extra burden or unreasonable additional cost. The interested party should immediately contact the Commission.

11. **Hearing Officer**

Interested parties may request the intervention of the Hearing Officer for trade proceedings. The Hearing Officer reviews requests for access to the file, disputes regarding the confidentiality of documents, requests for extension of time limits and any other request concerning the rights of defence of interested parties and third parties as may arise during the proceeding.

The Hearing Officer may organise hearings and mediate between the interested party or parties and the Commission services to ensure that the interested parties' rights of defence are being fully exercised. A request for a hearing with the Hearing Officer should be made in writing and should specify the reasons for the request. The Hearing Officer will examine the reasons for the requests. These hearings should only take place if the issues have not been settled with the Commission services in due course.

Any request must be submitted in good time and expeditiously so as not to jeopardise the orderly conduct of proceedings. To that effect, interested parties should request the intervention of the Hearing Officer at the earliest possible time following the occurrence of the event justifying such intervention.

For further information and contact details interested parties may consult the Hearing Officer's web pages on DG Trade and Economic Security's website: https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/contacts/hearing-officer_en

12. **Processing of personal data**

Any personal data collected in this investigation will be treated in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council ([8]).

A data protection notice that informs all individuals of the processing of personal data in the framework of Commission's trade defence activities is available on DG Trade and Economic Security's website: https://europa.eu/!vr4g9W

([8]) Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1725/oj).

ANNEX

☐	'Sensitive' version
☐	Version 'For inspection by interested parties'
(tick the appropriate box)	

ANTI-DUMPING PROCEEDING CONCERNING IMPORTS OF ASPARTAME ORIGINATING IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

INFORMATION FOR THE SELECTION OF THE SAMPLE OF UNRELATED IMPORTERS

This form is designed to assist unrelated importers in responding to the request for sampling information made in point 5.3.3 of the notice of initiation.

Both the 'Sensitive' version and the version 'For inspection by interested parties' should be returned to the Commission as set out in the notice of initiation.

1. **IDENTITY AND CONTACT DETAILS**

Supply the following details about your company:

Company name	
Address	
Contact person	
Email address	
Telephone	

2. **TURNOVER AND SALES VOLUME**

Indicate the total turnover in euros (EUR) of the company, the value in euros (EUR) and volume in tonnes for imports and resales on the Union market after importation from the People's Republic of China, during the investigation period, of the product under investigation as defined in the notice of initiation.

	Tonnes	Value in euros (EUR)
Total turnover of your company in euros (EUR)		
Imports of the product under investigation originating in the People's Republic of China		
Imports of the product under investigation (all origins)		
Resales on the Union market after importation from the Peoples Republic of China of the product under investigation		

3. **ACTIVITIES OF YOUR COMPANY AND RELATED COMPANIES** ([1])

Give details of the precise activities of the company and all related companies (please list them and state the relationship to your company) involved in the production and/or selling (export and/or domestic) of the product under investigation. Such activities could include but are not limited to purchasing the product under investigation, producing it under sub-contracting arrangements, or processing or trading it.

Company name and location	Activities	Relationship

4. **OTHER INFORMATION**

Please provide any other relevant information which the company considers useful to assist the Commission in the selection of the sample.

5. **CERTIFICATION**

By providing the above information, the company agrees to its possible inclusion in the sample. If the company is selected to be part of the sample, this will involve completing a questionnaire and accepting a visit at its premises in order to verify its response. If the company indicates that it does not agree to its possible inclusion in the sample, it will be deemed not to have cooperated in the investigation. The Commission's findings for non-cooperating importers are based on the facts available and the result may be less favourable to that company than if it had cooperated.

Signature of authorised official:

Name and title of authorised official:

Date:

([1]) In accordance with Article 127 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2447 of 24 November 2015 laying down detailed rules for implementing certain provisions of Regulation (EU) No 952/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the Union Customs Code, two persons shall be deemed to be related if: (a) they are officers or directors of the other person's business; (b) they are legally recognised partners in business; (c) they are employer and employee; (d) a third party directly or indirectly owns, controls or holds 5 % or more of the outstanding voting stock or shares of both of them; (e) one of them directly or indirectly controls the other; (f) both of them are directly or indirectly controlled by a third person; (g) together they control a third person directly or indirectly; or (h) they are members of the same family (OJ L 343, 29.12.2015, p. 558). In accordance with Article 5(4) of Regulation (EU) No 952/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the Union Customs Code, "person" means a natural person, a legal person, and any association of persons which is not a legal person but which is recognised under Union or national law as having the capacity to perform legal acts (OJ L 269, 10.10.2013, p. 1).