



Press release

For immediate release

Global Aluminium Associations Call for Action on Market-Distorting Behavior at OECD Global Trade Forum

Canadian, European and U.S. Aluminium Associations Urge Concrete Steps Toward Rules-Based Trade

PARIS, FRANCE (October 23, 2019) — During the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Global Trade Forum in Paris, France, senior leaders from the aluminium associations of Canada, Europe and the United States called on governments to take urgent actions to reform government policies and practices that distort the global aluminum market.

In a joint statement, Jean Simard, President & CEO of the Aluminium Association of Canada; Gerd Götz, Director General of European Aluminium; and Ryan Olsen, Vice President, Business Information and Statistics for the Aluminum Association said:

“Given the extent and duration of the harm suffered by the aluminium industry, we are calling for swift, focused and decisive action on market-distorting behavior and excess capacity in both the upstream and downstream sectors. On behalf of our respective member companies, we stand ready to support Governments and international organizations with our knowledge, data and commitment to articulate improved trade rules and to restore normal market functions so that all producers throughout the aluminum value chain can compete under conditions of fairness and transparency.”

The three representatives spoke in a panel discussion on the aluminium sector, as part of a full-day conference devoted to the issues of leveling the playing field and identifying a multilateral path forward for addressing trade distorting government support across a range of sectors.

Discussion in the session drew on the OECD's January 2019 report, “Measuring Distortions in International Markets: The Aluminium Value Chain.” The report, which forms part of broader OECD work to measure government support across sectors including agriculture, fossil fuels and fisheries, is the first OECD has produced on the aluminium industry specifically. The study shows that non-market forces, including state subsidies, are responsible for much of the recent increase in global aluminum capacity, with impacts along the entire industry value chain.

Using publicly available data, the report examined state support for 17 of the world's largest aluminum companies. While each of the 17 firms received some level of government support, industry participants highlighted their concerns about the nature and scale of support in some countries.

“The fact that fully 85 percent of the identified subsidies went to five aluminium producing firms in China, representing USD \$70 billion in direct support from the Chinese government over a five-year period is of great concern” said the three associations in their joint statement. “The OECD evidence underscores the need for urgent action to level the playing field for the aluminium sector globally”.

About the Aluminium Association of Canada (www.aluminium.ca/en)

The Aluminium Association of Canada (AAC) is a non-profit organization representing three Canadian world-class aluminium producers: Alcoa, Alouette, and Rio Tinto operating nine smelters in Canada, eight of which are in Quebec, with over 8,500 jobs. For more information, visit www.aluminium.ca or Twitter [@AAC_aluminium](https://twitter.com/AAC_aluminium).

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