



EU Moves to Close 'Paper-Thin Veneer' Loophole in Chinese Plywood Imports

Commission acts as importers face immediate risk of retroactive duties

Brussels, 0900 Friday 24, July 2026

The European Commission today moved to close what it believes is a loophole that allowed Chinese exporters to avoid EU anti-dumping duties on hardwood plywood by applying a softwood veneer so thin that, in some cases, it is only 0.05 mm thick—around half the thickness of an ordinary sheet of office paper. Following a detailed submission from representatives of the vast majority of the European plywood industry, the Commission has concluded that sufficient evidence exists to justify opening a formal anti-circumvention investigationⁱ into imports of slightly modified plywood from China.

Today's investigation builds directly on the Commission's findings last Novemberⁱⁱ that Chinese hardwood plywood was being dumped on the EU market, resulting in duties approaching 90%. Anticipating possible attempts to evade those measures, the Commission took the unusual step during the original investigation of introducing dedicated customs monitoring arrangements for the modified product before the definitive duties even entered into forceⁱⁱⁱ. Information gathered through that monitoring has now contributed directly to today's decision.

The commercial consequences begin immediately. From today, imports covered by the investigation will be registered by EU customs authorities. Should the Commission conclude that circumvention has taken place—as industry believes the evidence overwhelmingly demonstrates—the same anti-dumping duties already imposed on Chinese hardwood plywood are expected to apply to these modified products. Importers could therefore face substantial retroactive duty liabilities on goods entering the European Union from today's date.

The industry's submission to the EU that led to this decision showed imports of the modified product increasing by almost 3,800%, while imports of conventional hardwood plywood from China fell sharply following the opening of the original anti-dumping investigation. It also included evidence indicating that some Chinese suppliers marketed the modified product as 'anti-dumping free' and advised customers that the ultra-thin veneer could simply be sanded off after import. Similar circumvention techniques were previously found and investigated in the United States which also closed these loopholes.

A Spokesperson for the Greenwood Consortium, said:

“The Commission deserves considerable credit for recognising this risk early and putting in place dedicated monitoring arrangements before the original investigation had even concluded. That foresight has enabled today's relatively swift response. The purpose of today's decision is straightforward: European trade rules should be respected, and they should apply equally whether the outer veneer is six millimetres thick—or just five hundredths of one.”

Notes for editors

- The Commission imposed definitive anti-dumping duties approaching 90% on imports of Chinese hardwood plywood in November 2025.
- Today's investigation follows a submission made on behalf of producers representing the vast majority of the European plywood industry.
- Imports covered by today's investigation will be registered by EU customs. If the Commission confirms circumvention, the existing anti-dumping duties may be extended to the modified products and collected retroactively from the date registration began.

ⁱ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/1840 of 23 July 2026, OJ L published on 24th July 2026

ⁱⁱ COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2025/2333 of 19 November 2025 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty and definitively collecting the provisional duty imposed on imports of hardwood plywood originating in the People's Republic of China

ⁱⁱⁱ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/1139 of 6 June 2025