

## Press Release

# EUNIRPA cautions against any abusive use of trade protection measures by Eurofer

**Brussels, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016 – While EUNIRPA may understand the desire of the EU steel industry to protect itself against sudden and massive increases of low priced imports from countries with well-known structural over- capacities, it is very concerned that the current wave of anti-dumping proceedings might mislead the Commission into affording protection against imports of steel products that are not in over supply in the EU or are supplied by only a handful of suppliers in limited**

In particular, EUNIRPA cautions the Commission against being unwittingly led into unduly favouring a limited number of EU integrated steel producers at the expense of a very large number of predominantly small and mid-sized - generally family owned - non-integrated processors spread throughout the EU that can only survive if they are able to continue to have access to imports and suppliers that are not competing with them on their own downstream output.

This is particularly the case of the non-integrated EU wire rod processing industry which is witnessing tight supply situations in the EU and whose survival depends on access of wire rod at sufficiently competitive prices to be able to continue to face increasing competition of processed steel products from non-EU countries on downstream markets.

The EU Commission and EU decision makers as a whole need to understand that far from being limited to the production of steel, the backbone of the EU steel industry is largely composed of thousands of steel processing companies that create strong added value and generate tens of thousands of jobs. Any undue attempt to restrict access to the supply of feedstock to these industries will only lead to massive closures and/or delocalisation to areas that are not affected by trade protective measures.