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The European non-integrated wire rod processors' association (EUNIRPA) has expressed concern about the recently initiated USA anti-dumping proceedings against imports from 10 countries, a representative told S&P Global Platts Friday.

EUNIRPA said USA non-integrated wire rod processors will be threatened by this proceeding, because just like in Europe the majority of USA producers are also vertically integrated.

The European wire rod market shows overall consumption in the EU is improving with imports that have stabilized in 2016, the association said. "Based on what the market tells us, we expect that imports will remain at similar levels for 2017," said Kris Van Ginderdeuren, president of EUNIRPA.

"The European wire rod market continues to be dominated by a handful of integrated producers which are increasingly aiming at fully controlling the downstream market. As a result EUNIRPA members are frequently suffering margin squeezes which are exacerbated by ever increasing imports of finished products from non-European countries," the association noted.

During a meeting held in Lisbon the Board of Directors of the association has unanimously been reelected under the presidency of Kris Van Ginderdeuren.

-- Annalisa Villa