



## **The European Commission's refusal to grant public access to preparatory documents related to the imposition of anti-dumping tariffs on imports of iron or steel fasteners from China**

**Case** 1379/2020/MAS - **Opened on** 24/08/2020 - **Institution concerned** European Commission |

The complainant sought public access to documents held by the European Commission concerning the imposition of anti-dumping tariffs on imports to the EU from China of certain iron or steel fasteners. The Commission refused access, invoking the exceptions provided for in the EU's rules on public access to documents for protecting commercial interests and protecting the purpose of inspections. The complainant maintains that the Commission should have disclosed parts of the documents it identified as falling under his request.

The Ombudsman proposed as a solution that the Commission should provide the complainant with a list of the documents it identified as falling under the request, and examine individually each of the documents, with a view to disclosing some of them. The Commission replied and made available a list of documents. However, it maintained its decision not to examine the documents it identified individually, and to withhold access to all of them.