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REVIEW OF DOCTORAL THESIS

Yinan LIU

*„The Influence of China’s Accession to the WTO
on EU Anti-dumping Actions Against Chinese Products”*
(supervisor: prof. dr hab. Elżbieta Kawecka-Wyrzykowska)

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The structure of review is as follows:

1. Selection of research problem and subject of the thesis
2. Aims and research hypotheses of the thesis
3. Research methods
4. Structure and content of the thesis
5. Formal dimension of the thesis
6. Final conclusion

1. Selection of research problem and subject of the thesis

The doctoral dissertation of Yinan LIU is an example of solidly prepared, interdisciplinary work written using good economic language, taking on an important scientific problem, relevant in the context of up-to-date research carried out by many academic centers in the world. Topic of the reviewed thesis is all the more important in an era of growing international cooperation and the increasing openness of the economies at different stages of development, because, on the one hand, it has become natural to seek for more and more sophisticated tools of protection of national economic interests. On the other hand, however,

simultaneous membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and integration groupings tend to collide with those principles. Under such circumstances, as observed trends indicate, individual countries attempting to strengthen possessed competitive advantages and to find its place in the international division of labor utilize a range of instruments of foreign economic policy, including dumping and anti-dumping procedures.

In the context of the above, it should be noted, that the title of the thesis has been formulated properly.

2. Aims and research hypotheses of the thesis

The aims of the dissertation are as follows: at first, „...to assess whether China’s WTO accession has helped to reduce the frequency of EU anti-dumping investigations against Chinese products or not. The second aim is to identify the presence of other important determinants (apart from legal rules) of EU anti-dumping actions against Chinese products nad find evidence for those determinants” (p. 11). The main thesis is, that “China’s accession to WTO has not resulted in reduced intensity of anti-dumping actions in the EU” (p. 11), and complementary thesis is as follows: „There is a positive relationship between frequent EU anti-dumping actions and such factors as: high product concentration and fast increase of Chinese exports to EU”. Solution applied by author enabled to extend the scope of the research. It should be emphasized, that both research aims, so as the main and complementary thesis were verified on the basis of literature studies, statistical analysis and considerations conducted in the reviewed dissertation.

3. Research Methods

The author used a range of research methods, appropriate to the aims and hypothesis formulated in the dissertation, namely analysis of comprehensive literature and source materials published by the World Trade Organisation and the European Commission, theoretical analysis concerning dumping, and the method of synthesis. The content of the reviewed doctoral dissertation has been enriched with information from articles published in leading scientific journals such as "Global Economy Journal", "Journal of International Economics", "Journal of World Trade", "The World Economy", "European Journal of Political Economy" and several others.

It should be emphasized, that due to methodical and methodological solutions used in the thesis, skillful processing and presentation of statistical data reflecting the discussion held

in the third chapter, the perception of the presented content has been significantly facilitated.

4. Structure and content of the thesis

The thesis consists of four chapters, abstract, introduction, conclusion, appendix, bibliography, a list of tables and graphs. Each chapter, except the first, ends with the conclusions. According to reviewer, it reflects maturity of Yinan LIU's scientific workshop and ability to conduct a thorough analysis, an important feature of the investigator. The structure of the thesis is proper, the sequence and the contents of the chapters do not raise objections, as the logical consequence and substantive relationships are noticeable. It would be reasonable, however, to draw conclusions also at the end of the first chapter, in order to make the nature of the thesis more homogeneous.

Chapter I: Concept and types of dumping theory. Determinants and effects of anti-dumping – empirical evidence

This chapter can be considered as an attempt to create a theoretical basis for the analysis of dumping and the importance of factors and the effects of anti-dumping proceedings both at macro and micro level. The author highlighted three complementary areas of observation: the first defines dumping and presents its various forms, the second deals with the determinants of anti-dumping measures, while the third studies effects of the impact of anti-dumping measures on importers and exporters.

The first chapter shows, that the author operates the conceptual apparatus - characteristic for international economics – freely, and has the ability - how useful in scientific work – to select information and present those issues, that are essential in terms of content taken in the following chapters of dissertation.

Chapter II: Dumping and anti-dumping under WTO and EU laws and China's motives to obtain WTO membership

The second chapter of the reviewed thesis studies two logically and factually interrelated topics. The first is the presentation of dumping and anti-dumping regulations in force in the World Trade Organization and the European Union. It is worth noting, that the influence of EU regulations has been illustrated by well-discussed examples of anti-dumping procedures applied to products imported from the People's Republic of China. The second issue is the analysis of Chinese expectations related to accession to WTO so as the content of

the protocol setting out the terms of China's membership in WTO in the field of anti-dumping rules.

In summary of this chapter author rightly pointed out, that China's accession to the WTO did not affect significantly the elimination of AD as a barrier for Chinese exports to the EU market (p. 97).

Chapter III: Trends of exports from China subject to the EU anti-dumping actions before and after WTO accession and determinants of those actions

The third chapter verifies the main and complementary thesis of dissertation. Its content can be divided into six interrelated areas of analysis, the first of which briefly shows how varied the number of anti-dumping investigations undertaken by the European Union against China in the years 1995-2011, and the second shows the intensity of the actions carried out, basing on Antidumping Intensity Index (ADI). Another examines the number of EU anti-dumping investigations against Chinese goods in the groups of products and sectors using the HS classification, the fourth reflects the changes in the value of exports from this country, which was subject to such proceedings during the period 2003-2011 or after China's accession to WTO. The fifth area is a comparative analysis of the number of anti-dumping investigations undertaken by the EU and third countries, using these procedures against Chinese products. The considerations in this chapter are concluded with statistical verification of five main factors playing significant role in the EU's anti-dumping proceedings against imports from China. Their characteristics are made against the trends observed in the EU market, discussed in the first chapter.

It is worth noting, that the considerations set out in this chapter have been enriched with well constructed graphs and tabular compilation based on statistical data from EU documents. According to reviewer, proposed findings, supported by statistical relationships and analysis – constitute a significant added value of dissertation.

Chapter IV: The Future of EU anti-dumping policy towards China

The fourth chapter outlines the future of anti-dumping policy towards China, natural and logical complement to the considerations of the second and third chapter. In this chapter there are five interrelated components. The first one shows the evolution of institutional relations between the EU and China while stressing the importance of gradual opening up of the Chinese economy and the processes of integration within the European market in the

context of deepening the process. The second provides reactions to China's non-market economy status in relation to EU regulations, and the third is considering the influence of changing the status into market economy on the China's international position. Considerations carried out in the fourth and fifth part of the chapter relate to the study of anti-dumping phenomenon on a global scale. Namely, the influence of the instrument on the development of global chains of added value is discussed, so as the anti-dumping rules contained in preferential trade agreements (PTAs) in the context of their impact on the EU's anti-dumping proceedings.

The proposed structure of the chapter, as well as logic reasoning, confirms the maturity of the author's science research workshop.

5. Formal dimension of the thesis

When writing a doctoral dissertation, author used comprehensive literature, including bibliography sources in English. It is worth noting, that Yinan LIU operates freely the scientific publications provided by international organizations, virtual databases and legal acts regulating anti-dumping procedures of WTO and the EU. The bibliography consists of 233 sources, however, lacking an appropriate classification.

6. Final conclusion

In the opinion of the reviewer, evaluation of the submitted dissertation is unambiguously positive. The topic of the thesis is important from cognitive and practical perspectives. It is also worth emphasizing, that the structure of the thesis is transparent, both in terms of logic and reasoning sequences, as well as the editorial context. Its advantage is also a good use of source materials. Minor editorial errors do not change this assessment. Author was able to use multithreaded literature for the purposes of conducting research and analysis. The dissertation is written in correct, reader-friendly economic language. In addition, it is worth noting, that the conclusions drawn from the literature studies and source materials, statistical analysis and provided findings may be used both by analysts involved in the preparation of legal acts regulating the anti-dumping procedures so as the studies on their impact on international trade, as well as in the didactic process. In this sense, it can be also considered, that the thesis is a contribution to the preparation of economic decisions on key issues of the modern economy.

Summing up, dissertation of Yinan LIU entitled "The Influence of China's Accession to the WTO on the EU Anti-dumping Actions Against Chinese Products" fully complies with the substantial and formal requirements of doctoral thesis under the Act on scientific degrees and academic title and degrees and title in art of 14 March 2003 (Art. 13.1.). Therefore, I put a request for approval of dissertation of Yinan LIU and admission to further stages of the conferment procedure for a doctoral degree.

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