

WTO has ordered Russia to change duties on LCVs

31.01.2017 / Kommersant

WTO panel of arbitrators has found inconsistencies on anti-dumping duties introduced by Russia in 2013 on LCV imported from Italy and Germany to Customs Union, as stated by the European Commission (EC) on Friday. The EC emphasises that the introduction of these tariffs is one of the number of measures taken by Russia, against exports from the EU countries. European Commissioner for Trade Affairs has referred to the anti-dumping duties on LCV as unfairly protectionist and anti-competitive measures in the EC report and noted that these tariffs contradict with the commitments made by Russia at the time of accession to WTO.

According to the panel of arbitrators, the inconsistencies need to be addressed, however, the abolishment of tariffs has not been discussed. As clarified by the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), the EU was unable to prove the invalidity of the anti-dumping measures taken by Russia on LCVs from Germany and Italy, in the dispute between the country and the WTO. Upon examination of the dispute, the panel has agreed with some of the claims against the procedure of the anti-dumping investigation, however, did not require the cancellation of the protective measures or even the suspension of their implementation. More important is the fact that the EU has not tried to challenge the dumping made by its own manufacturers, as highlighted by the EEC.

EEC brought anti-dumping tariffs between 23-30% on 2.8-3.5 tonnes light commercial vehicles from Germany, Italy and Turkey in 2013. The measures cover diesel engine LCV with cylinder capacities not more than 3000 m3 and all-metal cargo van modifications (up to 2 tonnes carrying capacities) or combi - freight-and-passenger vans (for the combined transport of goods and people). The investigation, initiated by Sollers, may affect Volkswagen, Mercedes-Benz, FIAT and Peugeot-Citroen.

The panel of arbitrators has agreed with the arguments of EU that having excluded from the calculations certain manufacturers in the domestic market, Russia has fabricated a damage analysis, allegedly suffered by its factories on unrealistic figures, the report said. Evaluating the effect of dumping, the Russian side, according to the EU, did not take into consideration the excess capacities in LCV production, which at the time amounted to seven times the Russian market. The source of Kommersant in automotive market has said that the argument on such an excess is incorrect - "during the time of the investigation, only GAZ Group and Sollers-Elabuga (FIAT Ducato assembly) had the capacities and they had no excess for sure". The companies did not comment on the situation.

Under the rules of WTO, it's possible for the sides of the dispute to appeal against the decision of the panel within 60 days after its publication. The Ministry of Economy has stated that the final decision on the appeal is still pending, but it's likely to be filed. The ministry has added that the decision of the panel doesn't indicate that the anti-dumping duties on LCV imports from Germany and Italy are illegal. The Russian side doesn't agree with the findings of violations of WTO rules by the Russian Federation, the ministry noted. The WTO arbitrators have not agreed with 22 EU requests out of 31, within the frame of the investigation, said the director of Ministry of Economy Trade Negotiations Department.

St. Petersburg Toyota plant has increased production by 19% in 2016

30.01.2017 / Autostat

Toyota St. Petersburg factory has manufactured 39,061 automobiles in 2016 - a 19% year-on-year increase. The relevant statement has been made by the company press office, highlighting the figures of the year as the best ever in the history of the plant.

In particular, 31,117 Toyota Camry business-sedans and 7944 RAV4 crossovers have been manufactured in 2016. As one may remember, Toyota RAV4 production started in St. Petersburg last year in August. Toyota St. Petersburg has been operating in two shifts since December 2016, thanks to the introduction of the second model. 800 new jobs have been created in the plant, during the preparation process for Toyota RAV4 production. The staff number of the plant has reached maximum as a result, to 2350 people.

Previously, in 2015, the annual production capacity of the factory had been doubled from 50,000 automobiles to 100,000. The investment made in the capacity expansion project for the facility and RAV4 production currently amounts to 9.7 billion rubles.

RAV4 crossover has become the bestselling Toyota model in Russia in 2016, following a sales increase of 13% to 30,603 units. The model is now the undisputed leader of its segment as a result, increasing its market share to 23.5%. Camry business-sedan is the second most popular amongst Toyota models, which was preferred by 28,603 clients (-7%). Toyota Camry has also consolidated its leadership in the business-sedan segment in Russia last year, with 35.7% share.

In addition, Toyota St. Petersburg continues automobile production for Kazakh and Belarusian markets. 3398 automobiles have been delivered to the aforementioned countries in 2016 (+65%), 356 Camry and RAV4 vehicles respectively (+37%).

Mercedes-Benz has kept the top position in the Russian premium-segment in 2016

28.01.2017 / RusAutoNews.com

Mercedes-Benz RUS has become the leader of the premium-segment of Russian automobile market for a fourth consecutive year in 2016 with impressive sales figures: 36,888 Mercedes-Benz passenger cars and 6458 light-duty vehicles, alongside 696 Smart cars.

C and E-class vehicles have become the most popular Mercedes-Benz models traditionally, besides the complete SUV family. Moreover, Russian clients proved to be passionate enthusiasts of the highly dynamic Mercedes-AMG models, purchasing 2642 vehicles in 12 months (-1%).

Luxury automobile sales up by 6.5% in Russia

24.01.2017 / Autostat

Luxury automobiles market amounted to almost 1.2 million units in 2016, following a 6.5% year-on-year rise.

Approximately 60% of the market belongs to one model - Mercedes-Benz Maybach S-Class. 684 Russian citizens have purchased the model last year. Bentley, the traditional choice for Russians, has taken the second spot in the rankings (318 vehicles), with more than a quarter share of the market. The top-three in the luxury segment has been completed by Rolls-Royce (110), with around 10% market share. 32 new Ferrari, 25 Lamborghini, 17 Maserati and 5 Aston Martin have also appeared in Russian roads in 2016.

Ford Transit has become the leader amongst foreign brand LCVs in Russia in 2016

23.01.2017 / RusAutoNews.com

As announced by Ford Sollers, according to AEB data, the new generation Ford Transit has become the leader of the foreign brand LCV market in Russia in 2016. The share of Transit reached 22.4% of the total sales in foreign brand LCV market. The sales figure of the model is the highest in the segment and is equivalent to a 9% year-on-year rise, despite the ongoing market shrinkage.

Ford had 3% share of the Russian market in 2016, which corresponds to a 0.6% growth, in comparison with 2015 figures. Ford Transit has made a significant contribution to the growth of Ford Sollers sales in 2016, achieving the maximum increase amongst all Ford models in the Russian market, with 63%.

Over the past year, the total sales figure of Ford Transit and special vehicles based on the model amounted to 5562 units. The sales of the new generation Transit has reached a record level in Russia in December, since the introduction of the model to the country, with 693 vehicles. December sales figure indicates a 38% year-on-year increase.

Truck production up by 7% in 2016

24.01.2017 / Autostat

According to Rosstat data, truck production has amounted to 137,000 units in 2016, growing by 6.9% year-on-year.

Kamaz has manufactured 35,416 trucks and assembly sets, which is 9% over the figure in the company business plan. Out of the aforementioned figure, more than 22,000 units belong to all-wheel drive and heavy trucks family and more than 9500 to the upgraded trucks. The assembly of the flagship model range - Kamaz-5490 long-haul truck - has exceeded the planned figure by a half, reaching over 2500 units.

Car production down by 7% in 2016

24.01.2017 / Autostat

According to Rosstat data, 1.1 million passenger cars have rolled off Russian production lines in 2016, indicating a 7.4% year-on-year shrinkage.

Foreign car manufacturers continued expanding their Russian assembly model ranges last year (Renault Kaptur, Toyota RAV4, Hyundai Creta and Tucson, Besturn X80 and D60, alongside the new generations of Volkswagen Tiguan, BMW X1, Nissan Murano, Ford Kuga, Citroen C4 sedan, Lifan Solano, besides others).

Hyundai St. Petersburg plant has kept its position as the largest foreign car manufacturer in 2016, with a production figure of 207,000 vehicles (-9.8%), including 23,000 new Hyundai Creta crossovers. Nissan has manufactured 36,458 automobiles at its St. Petersburg facilities (-8%). Nissan Qashqai and X-Trail SUV have become the locomotives of growth for the company, alongside the new Murano. A total number of 79,066 Nissan vehicles have been produced in Russia last year (excluding exports). 32,104 Chevrolet Niva have rolled off GM-Avtovaz production lines, which is equivalent to a 6.2% shrinkage, on the other hand.

Lexus has set a new sales record in Russian market in 2016

20.01.2017 / RusAutoNews.Com

Lexus has established a record in terms of sales volumes in Russian market in 2016, with 24,117 automobiles. The sales figure of the company has risen by 19.2% year-on-year.

The share of Lexus in premium segment has risen by 3.4% in comparison with 2015, to 16.1%, which allowed Lexus to climb 3 positions in 2016 rankings.

RX (7848 vehicles sold), NX (6782) and LX (6402) were the bestsellers in the model range of Lexus in 2016. Lexus RX and Lexus LX models have broken their all-time sales records in Russia with the aforementioned sales figures. Business-Sedan ES has become the most popular model in the sedan range of Lexus in 2016 with 2058 units, up by 5.8% year-on-year.

Lexus has set a record in terms of quarterly sales during the fourth quarter of the year, with 6744 vehicles. The second and third quarters of the year were also registered as record breaking quarters.

Lexus has sold 21,693 crossovers and SUV in 2016, taking the first place in terms of sales in the Russian premium SUV segment, with a share of 20.5%.

JLR Russian sales more than doubled in 2016

19.01.2017 / Autostat

Jaguar Land Rover has sold 11,195 vehicles in Russia in 2016, which indicates an 11% year-on-year shrinkage. Land Rover sales amounted to 9211 units (-21%) and Jaguar to 2073 (+113%), as stated by Jaguar Land Rover Russia press office.

As noted, the rise in the sales of Jaguar was largely due to the introduction of the second generation Jaguar XF business sedan to the market, the emergence of the sports SUV Jaguar F-Pace and the start of sales of the all-wheel drive modification Jaguar XE. At the moment, all models of the British brand are available in all-wheel drive versions in the Russian market.

BMW has resumed the supplies of five models to Russia

16.01.2017 / Vedomosti

On Monday 16.01.2017, BMW has taken a decision to resume the imports of five models out of six, the imports of which were suspended as of the turn of the year, as told by a company representative to Vedomosti. The dealers are now able to take orders on 6 and 4-series cabriolets, M4, M6, as well as BMW M3 and BMW i8 (in addition to the introduction of BMW i3 to the market). However, the deliveries of BMW 5-series Gran Turismo to Russia will remain discontinued, ending the life cycle of the model.

Initially, BMW has suspended the imports of car components, due to ERA-GLONASS: the company has taken into account the fact that all imported vehicles have to be certified under this system, according to the terms of the technical regulations of the Customs Union as of 01.01.2017, stated the representative of the brand. The company has decided that the costs of certification (a minimum number of two crash tests required amongst other obligations) are too high for niche models with low sales figures.

Later on, however, an explanation has been received from the Russian authorities, as to the possibility of imports of vehicles without the ERA-GLONASS system to the country, providing the approval procedure of the vehicle type of the automobile is not completed (OTTS), as told by the representative. According to the representative, the procedure will be completed between 2017-2019 for the aforementioned models. During this period, the company will be able to carry out the certification of the models, in compliance with the requirements of ERA-Glonass. The model range of BMW automobiles manufactured at Avtotor has not declined due to ERA-Glonass.

BMW sells approximately 27,500 vehicles in Russia annually, according to AEB data.

Russian truck market has grown by 4% in 2016

16.01.2017 / Autostat

Russian truck market has grown by 4% in 2016. The market volume has reached 53,300 units in 2016, according to Autostat data, indicating a 4.2% year-on-year increase.

Russian manufacturer KAMAZ has kept the leadership of the market, with a share of 38% in 2016. The sales figure of the company is equivalent to 20,200 vehicles, up by 15% in comparison with the previous year. Another home brand GAZ occupies the second place, with 7300 units (+2.8%). The top-three is completed by Belarusian MAZ (3300, -9.5%). Russian URAL (2700, +2.2%) and Swedish Scania (2500, +2.2%) have also made it into the top-five.

Russian truck market has reached approximately 7000 units in December 2016, growing by a fifth.

Russian LCV market has shown a slight increase in 2016

16.01.2017 / Autostat

According to Autostat data, the new light commercial vehicles (LCV) market has amounted to 92,700 units in 2016, which equivalent to a 0.1% year-on-year increase.

GAZ has become the market leader, with a share of 45%. GAZ sales have increased by 8.8% year-on-year, with 41,800 vehicles. Another domestic manufacturer UAZ came second, with 18,800 units (-7.2%). Lada's LCV version has become the third bestseller brand (7700, +10.6%). The top-five is completed by Mercedes-Benz (6600, -25.8%) and Ford (5000, +16.9%).

12,300 light commercial vehicles have been sold in Russia in December 2016, indicating a 27.3% year-on-year rise.

Mercedes-Benz will start the construction of a factory in Moscow Region in 2018

13.01.2017 / RBK

A Mercedes-Benz factory construction will start in Moscow Region in 2018. The relevant statement has been made by RBK, with reference to the Minister of Industry and Commerce Denis Manturov. According to the minister, the investment agreement will be signed soon. "As for the start of investment, following the completion of all necessary project design works, the construction of the facility will begin in Moscow Region next year. The actual car production, as it's the case traditionally, will commence approximately within three years" - said Manturov. As told by the Governor of Moscow Region: Andrei Vorobyov previously, the facility will be built in Solnechnogorsk district. Kamaz may become a possible partner of Daimler in the project.

Market share of Lada reached 20.4% in December

12.01.2017 / RusAutoNews.com

According to December sales figures published by Avtovaz, the share of Lada in Russian automobile market amounted to 20.4% (as calculated by the company), which indicates a 3.2% year-on-year rise. 27,630 Lada vehicles have been sold in December 2016, up by 17.8% compared to last year and by 8.3% in comparison with November 2016.

The share of Lada in Russian passenger cars market reached 20% in 2016, following a 2.2% year-on-year growth.

The official Lada dealers have sold a total number of 226,296 vehicles in 2016. The figure is 1% below last year's sales (or down by 2800 units). Russian passenger cars market has shrunk by 12% in 2016 (according to company's own figures).

Lada Granta has become the second best-sold model of 2016 (87,726 units). Lada Vesta came fourth with 55,174 vehicles.

Audi and BMW will suspend the delivery of some models to Russia due to ERA-GLONASS

11.01.2017 / RBK

Audi will temporarily stop the supply of six models to the Russian market, due to the ERA-GLONASS system. The relevant statement has been made by a representative of the brand to Autonews.ru. According to the source, the aforementioned models are: A3 and A5 cabriolets, A1 hatchback, TT and R8 coupes, as well as the flagship model of the brand A8 sedan.

"A8, R8 and TT won't disappear from the market. A sufficient number of vehicles has been imported in 2016, in order to meet the demand in 2017" - said the representative of the Russian quarters of Audi.

Another German company, BMW, has also decided to discontinue the sales of cabriolets in the Russian market, due to ERA-GLONASS. As told by a representative of the Russian office of BMW, the Bavarian manufacturer will sell 2016 production cabriolets in the country in 2017.

It's compulsory for all automobiles in Russian market to be equipped with emergency response systems, as of 01.01.2017. In order to obtain certification, the models have to pass a series of crash tests, including front and side collisions.

Russian sales of Ford up by 10% in 2016

11.01.2017 / Autostat

The sales of Ford Sollers have increased by 10% in Russia in 2016, to 42,528 vehicles. Ford Transit and special versions based on Ford Kuga and Ford Focus have made the main contributions in the growth of sales, as stated by Ford Sollers press office. As noted, the company has managed to increase its sales despite the market shrinkage, due to a large-scale transformation of the model range, reasonable pricing policies and the effective implementation of long-term localisation strategies.

The new generation of Ford Transit has shown the highest growth rate in sales in 2016, with 63%. A total number of 5562 Ford Transit have been sold last year. Ford Transit new generation has achieved a record number of sales in December, since its entry to the Russian market, with 693 vehicles, indicating a 38% year-on-year increase. Transit owes its success in the market to the number of various versions, meeting different needs of Russian customers. The range is presented via a new network of specialised Transit centres opened in 2016, making the full range of models based on Transit accessible to public, with more than 25 options for special and social purposes.

Ford Focus has maintained its position as the most popular model of the brand in Russia. The sales of the bestselling model have risen by 8% in 2016, despite the downward trend in Russian C-segment market, with 11,973 units.

The rising demand for SUV has triggered the sales of off-road models such as: Ford EcoSport and Ford Kuga, by 15% and 18% respectively. Thanks to the introduction of the new Ford Kuga to the Russian market, which is being manufactured at Ford Sollers plant in Elabuga since December, the company has successfully completed the full renovation of the model range for the Russian market, now offering its customers a completely new line of Russian Ford SUV models. The new Ford Kuga has been designed to strengthen the position of the brand in a key segment, by repeating the success of its predecessor.

The growth in the sales of Ford Fiesta, which was introduced to the Russian market by the company in Summer 2015, has amounted to 29% in 2016.

