

## ***Aluminium markets - current developments and challenges***

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Europe's aluminium markets have developed positively in recent years. The reasons are the healthy economic situation of the customer industries and the increased use of aluminium products in certain areas. Together with relatively stable economic policy conditions, this provides a solid basis for growth in the industry. This environment has changed noticeably in the meantime. Trade conflicts and economic concerns are dampening the economic climate.

The first part of the presentation examines the current economic situation. Macroeconomic indicators and framework conditions for the European and German aluminium industry as well as developments in important customer industries (automotive industry, construction industry, mechanical engineering, etc.) are discussed.

In the second part of the presentation, the development of demand for products made of aluminium - mainly semi-finished aluminium products - is presented.

The third part focuses on trade flows. The balance of trade flows achieved was disturbed by the introduction of punitive tariffs on various aluminium products. This triggered adjustment processes towards a new balance. A process that will take some time. In the medium term, Europe will be confronted with increased imports. A look at the foreign trade data will show whether and to what extent this can already be seen for important areas of semi-finished aluminium products.