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## **Metal Bulletin**

### **CCCMC's retort against US charges seen as soft**

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Analysts have described Beijing's latest response to US allegations of Chinese energy subsidies in its steel industry as soft and ineffectual. "What is wrong with the official Chinese rebuttals is that they are usually non-specific and not hard-hitting enough. They appear wishy-washy and therefore are not particularly effective," said US-based market analyst Hans Mueller. "American lobbies are sluggers and one does not get anywhere by arguing with them as if they were Victorian gentlemen à la Jane Austin." The Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM) has accused Beijing of giving out \$27.11 billion in subsidies for coal, natural gas and power to Chinese steel mills. A month later, the China Chamber of Commerce of Metals Minerals & Chemicals Importers & Exporters (CCCMC) has released a response, in which the strongest comment was to call the allegations "baseless". CCCMC did not go into detail or point out any misunderstanding or miscalculation in the US report.

This type of general comment is not the first of its kind and there is growing feeling in the industry that it is time for China's industrial associations to stop mincing its words and come down harder if it really means to protect the interests of its members.

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