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Committee on Safeguards

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**NOTIFICATION UPON INITIATION OF A REVIEW PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 7.2
REGARDING THE EXTENSION OF A SAFEGUARD MEASURE**

MOROCCO

Coated wood board

The following communication, dated and received on 31 March 2022, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Morocco.

Pursuant to Article 7.2 of the Agreement on Safeguards, Morocco hereby notifies the initiation of a review investigation regarding extension of the current safeguard measure on imports of coated wood board.

1 DATE OF INITIATION OF THE INVESTIGATION

The Ministry of Industry and Trade (hereinafter "the Ministry") has decided to initiate a review investigation on extension of the safeguard measure applied to imports of coated wood board, as from 24 March 2022.

Public notice concerning the initiation of the investigation has been given on the Ministry's website (<https://www.mcinet.gov.ma/fr/avis-sauvegarde>) and in two newspapers authorized to publish legal announcements, namely: LE MATIN (Issue No. 17443) and LES INSPIRATIONS ECO (Issue No. 3063), both published on 23 March 2022.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PRODUCTS INVOLVED

The product under consideration and subject to the review investigation is board made from pieces of wood agglomerated with a binding substance, other than oriented strand board (OSB) and waferboard, which is surface-covered with melamine decor paper or decorative laminates of plastic, hereinafter referred to as "coated wood board".

The product under consideration is imported under the following Moroccan Harmonized System customs headings: 4410.11.20.90, 4410.11.30.90, 4410.19.92.90, and 4410.19.93.90.

The review concerns all the products subject to the existing measure.

3 REFERENCE TO THE WTO DOCUMENT CONTAINING THE MOST RECENT ARTICLE 12.1(C) NOTIFICATION

The WTO documents containing the most recent Article 12.1 notification are document G/SG/N/8/MAR/6-G/SG/N/10/MAR/6-G/SG/N/11/MAR/6, published on 11 July 2019, and its corrigendum G/SG/N/8/MAR/6/Corr.1-G/SG/N/10/MAR/6/Corr.1-G/SG/N/11/MAR/6/Corr.1, published on 25 July 2019.

4 REASONS FOR THE INITIATION OF THE REVIEW

The review investigation concerning extension of the safeguard measure applied to imports of coated wood board was initiated by the Ministry following a petition submitted by Cema-Bois de l'Atlas, which constitutes the domestic industry for this product.

The review was initiated for the following reasons:

- The injury caused to the domestic industry has not yet been remedied and the measure continues to be necessary to remedy and prevent such injury;
- The domestic industry is in the process of introducing adjustments so as to improve its competitiveness; and
- Without a safeguard measure, the domestic market would be inundated with diverted exports given the new factors and circumstances such as the continued decline in domestic consumption of the product in the main exporting countries and the increase in the production capacity of the main foreign producers of wood board.

5 DEADLINE(S) FOR EXPORTERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES TO SUBMIT COMMENTS IN WRITING

The Ministry will send questionnaires to the exporters identified in the petition. Other concerned parties wishing to receive a questionnaire and participate in the investigation should request the questionnaire within 15 days of the date of initiation of the investigation.

Replies to the investigation questionnaires must reach the Ministry within the time-limits laid down in the questionnaires, and any party requesting an extension of these time-limits must show good cause.

Parties that consider that the investigation concerns them have a period of 30 days from the date of initiation of the investigation to make themselves known as interested parties.

In addition to their questionnaire replies, concerned parties may send their views and comments on the initiation of the investigation, in writing, within 30 days of the date of initiation.

To submit replies and comments or to request information about the investigation procedure, parties should contact the Ministry at:

Ministère de l'Industrie et du Commerce
Direction Générale du Commerce
Direction de la Défense et de la Réglementation Commerciales
Parcelle 14, Business center, aile Nord bd Riad,
Hay Riad. BP 610, Rabat Chellah, Morocco
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