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Committee on Safeguards

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**NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 12.1(A) OF THE AGREEMENT
ON SAFEGUARDS ON INITIATION OF AN INVESTIGATION
AND THE REASONS FOR IT**

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

MOROCCO

(Wire Rods and Reinforcing Bars)

Supplement

The following communication, dated 13 August 2018, 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 wire rods and reinforcing bars.

1 DATE OF INITIATION OF THE INVESTIGATION

The Ministry of Industry, Investment, Trade and the Digital Economy (hereinafter the Ministry) has decided to initiate a review investigation on extension of the safeguard measure applied to imports of wire rods and reinforcing bars, as from 13 August 2018.

Public notice concerning the initiation of the investigation has been given to the public on the Ministry's website (http://www.mcinet.gov.ma/ce/antidumping/avis_sauvgarde.asp).

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PRODUCTS INVOLVED

The products under consideration and subject to the review investigation are wire rods and reinforcing bars belonging to the family of long iron and non-alloy steel products.

Wire rods and reinforcing bars are imported under the following Moroccan Harmonized System customs headings:

- Wire rods: 7213.91.90.00;
- Reinforcing bars: 7214.20.90.00 and 7214.99.91.00.

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 document containing the most recent Article 12.1(c) notification is document G/SG/N/10/MAR/3/Suppl.3-G/SG/N/11/MAR/2/Suppl.3-G/SG/N/14/MAR/1/Suppl.1, published

on 22 December 2015. The corrigendum was published on 19 April 2016 as document G/SG/N/10/MAR/3/Suppl.3/Corr.1-G/SG/N/11/MAR/2/Suppl.3/Corr.1-G/SG/N/14/MAR/1/Suppl.1/Corr.1.

4 REASONS FOR INITIATION OF THE REVIEW

The review investigation on extension of the safeguard measure applied to imports of wire rods and reinforcing bars was initiated by the Ministry following a petition submitted by the Moroccan Iron and Steel Industry Association (Association des Sidérurgistes du Maroc, ASM), which constitutes the domestic industry for these products.

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 characterizing the global steel market, such as the increase in global overcapacity, the growth in Chinese exports and the recent introduction of safeguard measures by the leading global steel market players.

5 DEADLINES 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 and, in accordance with point 7 of the public notice, in confidential and non-confidential versions.

To submit replies and comments or to request information about the investigation procedure, parties should contact the Ministry using the fax number or email address provided below.

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