



15 October 2014

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Page: 1/2

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**

TUNISIA

(Glass Bottles)

The following notification, dated 15 October 2014, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Tunisia.

Pursuant to Article 12.1(a) of the Agreement on Safeguards, Tunisia hereby notifies the Committee on Safeguards of the initiation of a safeguard investigation on imports of glass bottles.

1 DATE OF INITIATION OF THE INVESTIGATION

The investigation was initiated on 30 September 2014 (date of publication of the notice of initiation in Official Journal of the Tunisian Republic (JORT) No. 079 of 30 September 2014).

2 PRODUCTS SUBJECT TO THE INVESTIGATION

The products subject to the investigation are glass bottles classified under the following codes of the Tunisian customs tariff: 70109031111, 70109031133, 70109041013, 70109043019, 70109045015, 7010907011, 70109051017, 70109053013, 70109055019, 70109057015, 70109091115, 70109091911, 70109099119, and 70109099211.

3 REASONS FOR INITIATING THE INVESTIGATION

The investigation was initiated by the Ministry of Trade and Crafts pursuant to Law No. 98-106 of 18 December 1998 on import safeguard measures, following a complaint made by the *Société Tunisienne de Verrerie* (SOTUVER), in its capacity as the sole producer of glass bottles.

Imports of glass bottles rose from 8,455 tonnes in 2009 to 13,457 tonnes in 2013, while local market sales remained static between 2011 and 2013.

The complainant has provided evidence of a decline in its activity during the 2011-2013 period. This period was indeed marked by a static sales volume and the stagnation of profitability, market share and effective production capacity utilization rates, while glass bottle stock levels significantly increased.

A preliminary study of the complaint has been carried out by the relevant services of the Ministry of Trade and Crafts. This study shows evidence to warrant the initiation of a safeguard investigation on the above-mentioned products.

4 POINT OF CONTACT

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5 FURTHER INFORMATION

All interested parties are invited to present their views in writing and to submit any information deemed useful to the smooth conduct of the investigation within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice in the Official Journal of the Tunisian Republic.
