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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**

TUNISIA

(Minibuses)

The following notification, dated and received on 4 October 2021, 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 minibuses.

1 DATE OF INITIATION OF THE INVESTIGATION

The investigation was initiated on 1 October 2021 (date of publication of the notice of initiation in Official Journal of the Tunisian Republic (JORT) No. 90 of 1 October 2021).

2 PRODUCTS SUBJECT TO THE INVESTIGATION

The products subject to the investigation are minibuses classified under the following codes of the Tunisian customs tariff: 87021011001, 87021091003 and 87029031007.

3 REASONS FOR INITIATING THE INVESTIGATION

The investigation was initiated by the Minister of Trade and Export Development pursuant to Law No. 98-106 of 18 December 1998 on import safeguard measures, following a complaint made by the SETCAR Group in its capacity as the largest producer of minibuses in Tunisia.

Imports of minibuses rose from 267 vehicles in 2017 to 372 vehicles in 2020, while domestic production and local market sales stagnated during that same period.

The complainant has provided evidence of a decline in its activity during the 2017-2020 period.

A preliminary study of the complaint has been carried out by the relevant services of the Ministry of Trade and Export Development. 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 45 days from the date of publication of the notice of initiation in the Official Journal of the Tunisian Republic.
