

21 July 2022

(22-5553)

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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

Wire of iron or non-alloy steel

The following notification, dated 20 July 2022 and received on 21 July 2022, 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 wire of iron or non-alloy steel used in the manufacture of upholstery springs.

1 DATE OF INITIATION OF THE INVESTIGATION

The investigation was initiated on 19 July 2022 (date of publication of the notice of initiation in Official Journal of the Tunisian Republic (JORT) No. 80 of 19 July 2022).

2 PRODUCTS SUBJECT TO THE INVESTIGATION

The product subject to the investigation is wire of iron or non-alloy steel used in the manufacture of upholstery springs classified under the following codes of the Tunisian customs tariff: 72171050002 and 72171090100.

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 MAKLADA Group in its capacity as the only national producer of wire of iron or non-alloy steel used in the manufacture of upholstery springs in Tunisia.

Imports of wire of iron or non-alloy steel used in the manufacture of upholstery springs rose from 1,275 tonnes in 2017 to around 4,728 tonnes in 2021, while domestic production stagnated and local market sales fell during that same period.

The complainant has provided evidence of a decline in its activity during the 2017-2021 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

Ministère du Commerce et du Développement des Exportations;
Direction Générale du Commerce Extérieur;
Angle entre les Rues Ghana et Pierre de Coubertin et Hédi Noura - Tunis - 1001, Tunisia
Tel.: +216 71 245 913 / +216 71 330 896
Fax: +216 71 354 456
Email: dorra.borji@tunisia.gov.tn
hichem.khelfa@tunisia.gov.tn

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.
