



16 April 2018

(18-2300)

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Committee on Safeguards

Original: English

**IMPOSITION OF A SAFEGUARD MEASURE BY THE UNITED STATES
ON IMPORTS OF CERTAIN STEEL AND ALUMINIUM PRODUCTS**

REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 12.3
OF THE AGREEMENT ON SAFEGUARDS

EUROPEAN UNION

The following communication, dated 16 April 2018, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the European Union.

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1. On 8 March 2018 the United States of America ("United States") adopted safeguard measures in the form of a tariff increase on imports of certain steel and aluminium products, effective from 23 March 2018 and with an unlimited duration. On 22 March the effective date of the tariff increase with respect to the European Union was deferred to 1 May 2018.
 2. Notwithstanding the United States' characterisation of these measures as security measures, they are in essence safeguard measures.
 3. The United States failed to notify the WTO Committee on Safeguards under Article 12.1(c) on taking a decision to apply safeguard measures.
 4. The EU is a major exporting Member of the products involved.
 5. Thus, having a substantial interest as an exporter in this case, the European Union requests consultations with the United States under paragraph 3 of Article 12 of the Agreement on Safeguards.
 6. The aim of the consultations is, *inter alia*, to exchange views and seek clarification regarding the proposed measures and reaching an understanding on ways to achieve the objectives set out in Article 8.1 of the Agreement on Safeguards.
 7. The European Union suggests holding the consultations as soon as possible. The European Union looks forward to a prompt reply by the United States in order to set a mutually convenient date and venue for these consultations.
 8. The European Union reserves all its rights under the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization and its Annexes including the Agreement on Safeguards.
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