

21 February 2024

(24-1584)

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Committee on Safeguards

Original: French

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

MOROCCO

*(Coated wood fibreboard)*

The following communication, dated and received on 20 February 2024, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Morocco.

Pursuant to Article 12.1(a) of the Agreement on Safeguards, Morocco hereby notifies the initiation of a safeguard investigation concerning imports of coated wood fibreboard.

**1. Date when the investigation was initiated**

The Ministry of Industry and Trade (hereinafter the Ministry) has decided to initiate a safeguard investigation concerning imports of coated wood fibreboard, as from 20 February 2024.

A notice concerning the initiation of the investigation is available to the public on the Ministry's website: <https://www.mcinet.gov.ma/fr/avis-sauvegarde>.

**2. Precise description of the product involved**

The product at issue is board made from wood fibres and surface coated with melamine decor paper or decorative laminates of plastic.

The product referred to in the petition is currently imported into Morocco under the following Harmonized System tariff headings of the Moroccan customs tariff:

4411.12.00.90, 4411.13.00.90, 4411.14.00.90, 4411.92.00.90, 4411.93.00.90 and 4411.94.00.90.

**3. Reasons for the initiation of the investigation**

The investigation was initiated by the Ministry following a petition submitted by the company Cema Bois de l'Atlas, on behalf of the domestic industry producing coated wood particle board, which, within the scope of this investigation, is considered to be the product in direct competition with the product at issue.

According to the petition, the product in question has been imported into the Moroccan market in such increased quantities, both in absolute terms and in relation to domestic production, as to threaten to cause serious injury to the domestic industry producing coated wood particle board.

Imports of coated wood fibreboard recorded a sharp rise during the period 2019-2023, both in absolute terms and in relation to domestic production.

In absolute terms, these imports increased by 370% over the period 2019-2023. In relation to domestic production, they increased by more than 641% during the period 2019-2023.

According to the petitioner, this massive increase in imports is due to a number of unforeseen developments.

According to the claims made in the petition, the increase in imports threatens to cause imminent serious injury to the domestic industry producing coated wood particle board.

#### **4. Procedures and deadlines for interested parties to make themselves known**

Interested parties have a period of 30 days from the date of initiation of the investigation to make themselves known as such and to comment on the investigation, by contacting the Ministry by fax or email at the number or address provided in paragraph 5.

During the investigation, the Ministry will be open to hearing the arguments of the various parties. Any request for a hearing must be made in writing, be duly motivated and contain the elements that the interested party wishes to address.

#### **5. Point of contact and correspondence for the purposes of the investigation**

To request information about the investigation procedure, parties should contact the Ministry using the fax number or email address provided below:

**Ministère de l'Industrie et du Commerce**  
**Direction Générale du Commerce**  
**Direction de la Défense et de la Réglementation Commerciale**  
**Division de la Défense Commerciale**  
Parcelle 14, Business center, aile Nord bd Riad,  
Hay Riad. BP 610, Rabat Chellah, Morocco  
Tel.: (+212) 537 70 18 46  
Fax: (+212) 537 72 71 50  
**Email:** DDC-SVG-MDF@mcinet.gov.ma

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