

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

MOROCCO

The following communication, dated 29 December 2000, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Morocco.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the World Trade Organization and has the honour to transmit attached hereto the notification submitted by the competent Moroccan authorities to the Committee on Safeguards under Article 12:1(a) of the Agreement on Safeguards.

After examining the request made by the rubber plate and sheet manufacturing industry for the application of safeguard measures against imports of rubber plates and sheets, the Ministry of Industry, Trade, Energy and Mining has decided to open an investigation in accordance with the provisions of the above-mentioned Agreement.

Pursuant to Article 12:1(a) of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards, and taking into account the format adopted by the Committee on Safeguards for notifications under the Agreement on Safeguards (G/SG/N/6 of 7 February 1995), the Kingdom of Morocco hereby notifies that the Ministry of Industry, Trade, Energy and Mining has initiated a safeguards investigation as follows:

1. Date of initiation of the investigation:

- The Ministry of Industry, Trade, Energy and Mining decided to open the investigation on 5 December 2000.
- An announcement by the Ministry of Industry, Trade, Energy and Mining was published on 18 December 2000 in *Le Matin* (in French) and *Al Ahdaf Almaghreb* (in Arabic), which are mass -circulation national daily newspapers.

2. Products subject to the investigation:

Rubber plates and sheets falling in tariff items 4008.11.00.10, 4008.11.00.90, 4008.21.00.20 and 4008.21.00.90 of the Moroccan Harmonized Customs Tariff.

3. Reasons for the initiation of the investigation:

The investigation was opened by the Ministry of Industry, Trade, Energy and Mining following a request submitted by the company CAPLAM on behalf of the domestic industry and on the basis of the information and evidence contained in that application.

The Ministry of Industry, Trade, Energy and Mining has evidence of the existence of a substantial increase in imports of rubber plates and sheets both in relation to domestic production and in absolute terms, which are causing or threatening to cause serious injury to the domestic industry.
