



3 May 2018

(18-2733)

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Committee on Safeguards

Original: English

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

TURKEY

(Iron and Steel Products)

The following communication, dated 2 May 2018, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Turkey.

Republic of Turkey hereby notifies the Committee on Safeguards, pursuant to Article 12.1(a) of the Agreement on Safeguards on initiation of a safeguard investigation on imports of iron and steel products.

1. The date when the investigation was initiated

The investigation was initiated on 27/4/2018. The related Communiqué was published in the Official Gazette on the same date.

2. The product subject to the investigation

The products under investigation are hereinafter referred to as "the products concerned".

The HS Codes under the Turkish Customs Tariff Schedule and descriptions of the products concerned are listed in the table below.

N.	Product Group	HS Codes	Description of Product
1	Flat Products	72.08	Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of 600 mm or more, hot-rolled, not clad, plated or coated:
		72.09	Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of 600 mm or more, cold-rolled (cold-reduced), not clad, plated or coated:
		72.10	Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of 600 mm or more, clad, plated or coated:
		72.11	Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of less than 600 mm, not clad, plated or coated:
		72.12	Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of less than 600 mm, clad, plated or coated:
		72.25	Flat-rolled products of other alloy steel, of a width of 600 mm or more:
		72.26	Flat-rolled products of other alloy steel, of a width of less than 600 mm:

N.	Product Group	HS Codes	Description of Product	
2	Bars, Rods and Sections	72.13	Bars and rods, hot-rolled, in irregularly wound coils, of iron or non-alloy steel:	
		72.14	Other bars and rods of iron or non-alloy steel, not further worked than forged, hot-rolled, hot-drawn or hot-extruded, but including those twisted after rolling:	
		72.15	Other bars and rods of iron or non-alloy steel:	
		72.16	Angles, shapes and sections of iron or non-alloy steel:	
		72.17	Wire of iron or non-alloy steel:	
		72.27	Bars and rods, hot-rolled, in irregularly wound coils, of other alloy steel:	
3	Railway Material	72.28	Other bars and rods of other alloy steel; angles, shapes and sections, of other alloy steel; hollow drill bars and rods, of alloy or non-alloy steel:	
		73.02	Railway or tramway track construction material of iron or steel, the following: rails, check-rails and rack rails, switch blades, crossing frogs, point rods and other crossing pieces, sleepers (cross-ties), fish-plates, chairs, chair wedges, sole plates (base plates), rail clips, bedplates, ties and other material specialised for jointing or fixing rails:	
			73.03	Tubes, pipes and hollow profiles, of cast iron:
			73.04	Tubes, pipes and hollow profiles, seamless, of iron (other than cast iron) or steel:
			73.05	Other tubes and pipes (for example, welded, riveted or similarly closed), having circular cross-sections, the external diameter of which exceeds 406,4 mm, of iron or steel:
			73.06	Other tubes, pipes and hollow profiles (for example, open seam or welded, riveted or similarly closed), of iron or steel:
5	Stainless Steel	72.19	Flat-rolled products of stainless steel, of a width of 600 mm or more:	
		72.20	Flat-rolled products of stainless steel, of a width of less than 600 mm:	

3. The reasons for the initiation of investigation

Taking into account import taxes imposed by the United States, safeguard investigation initiated by the European Union and increasing tendency worldwide towards protectionist measures against steel products, the investigation was initiated ex-officio in order to determine whether imports have caused serious injury and/or threat thereof to domestic producers of related products.

The information currently available indicates that there has been an increase in imports of the product concerned in the period 2013-2017. Turkey notes that total imports increased by 22%, reaching to 10.9 million tonnes between the related period. The quantity of imports rate of change is -4.7% in 2013-2014 whereas the increase of the next period is 24.7% in 2015. In last two years, the increase rates are 1.2%. In addition to that, the value of import and the imports prices decreased between 2013-2016.

An interim examination report is going to be prepared on the basis of the information, documents and views presented by the related parties in the investigation process and the research to be carried out by the General Directorate. The interim review report will be published on the investigation page at the link address below.

<https://www.ekonomi.gov.tr/portal/url/buk>

4. Further information

The coverage of the products concerned may change according to the information to be collected in the investigation process.

If necessary conditions for imposition of a safeguard measure on the products concerned are fulfilled, it will also be assessed whether products originated in the European Union are to be exempted from such a measure.

The interested parties can download the investigation questionnaires from the investigation page <https://www.ekonomi.gov.tr/portal/url/buk>

The interested parties are required to fill in the questionnaires within 30 (thirty) days from the date of publication of the Communiqué and forward it to the General Directorate. Interested parties may ask for technical assistance from the investigating authority while filling out the questionnaires.

The companies and institutions established in Turkey shall send the questionnaires and their official views from their official registered electronic mail-KEP address to the registered electronic mail-KEP address of the Ministry.

The address for electronic mail: ekonomi@hs01.kep.tr

Those who want to be interested parties as companies, institutions and establishments abroad shall send their answers to the questionnaires and their official views to the Ministry's e-mail address below.

Directorate General E-mail address: ithebys@ekonomi.gov.tr

The address of the investigating authority for correspondence is:

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