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**Council for Trade in Goods
Committee on Safeguards**

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**IMMEDIATE NOTIFICATION TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS
OF THE RESULTS OF THE CONSULTATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 12.3**

JOINT COMMUNICATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

Certain steel products

The following communication, dated 30 April 2019, is being circulated at the request of the Delegations of the European Union and the Republic of North Macedonia.

Pursuant to Article 12.5 of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards (Safeguards Agreement), the European Union and the Republic of North Macedonia are notifying the results of the consultations conducted under Article 12.3 of the Safeguards Agreement. Documents G/SG/N/6/EU/1 (dated 27 March 2018), G/SG/N/6/EU/1/Suppl.1 (dated 29 June 2018), G/SG/N/7/EU/1 and G/SG/N/11/EU/1 (dated 18 July 2018), G/SG/N/8/EU/1 - G/SG/N/10/EU/1 - G/SG/N/11/EU/1/Suppl.1 (dated 4 January 2019) G/SG/N/8/EU/1/Suppl.1 - G/SG/N/10/EU/1/Suppl.1 - G/SG/N/11/EU/1/Suppl.2 (dated 7 February 2019) contain notifications from the European Union concerning measures taken under the Safeguards Agreement concerning certain steel products.

On 11 January 2019, the European Union and the Republic of North Macedonia conducted consultations with a view to discuss the information provided in the above-mentioned documents dated 4 January 2019, related to the safeguard measure on certain steel products. The European Union and the Republic of North Macedonia discussed the relevant information and exchanged views on the measure.

In particular, the Republic of North Macedonia requested to be excluded from the scope of the measures, as in their opinion, the provisions from the Stabilisation and association agreement (between RNM and EU) regulating safeguard measures were not fully respected by the Commission. Their arguments were also that the proportion of the Macedonian steel exports in the EU market, does not cause "exceptional and critical circumstances", nor "serious injury" or "serious disturbances" in the EU steel market (as stipulated in article 37 (1) of the SAA), i.e. there is a large disproportion in participation in the total import into the EU between the countries on which the safeguard measures apply.

The European Union explained to the Republic of North Macedonia the reasons why it disagreed with the requests for an exclusion.

North Macedonia reserved its right to request compensation pursuant to Article 8 paragraph 1 of the Agreement on Safeguards. The European Union took note of this point.