

Original: English

**HUNGARY – SAFEGUARD MEASURE ON IMPORTS OF  
STEEL PRODUCTS FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

Request for Consultations from the Czech Republic

The following communication, dated 21 January 1999, from the Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the Permanent Mission of Hungary and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.4 of the DSU.

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My authorities have instructed me to request consultations with the Government of Hungary pursuant to Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU) and Article XXIII:1 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 (GATT 1994) with regard to the imposition of quantitative restrictions by Hungary on imports of a broad range of steel products from the Czech Republic.

Upon Resolution by the Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Republic of Hungary, published in the Industry and Trade Bulletin, the official gazette of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, No. 22, Hungary imposed a safeguard measure in the form of import quotas on imports of a broad range of steel products of the Czech Republic's origin (HS codes 7211, 7213, 7214, 7215, 7216 10-50, 7217, 7306, 7314, 7317) effective as of 1 January 1999. The only country subject to this measure is the Czech Republic.

The Government of the Czech Republic considers that the quantitative restrictions are in breach of Hungary's obligations under the provisions of GATT 1994, including, but not limited to, Article I and Article XIX, and are inconsistent with respective provisions of the Agreement on Safeguards. The Government of the Czech Republic reserves the right to raise additional factual claims and legal matters in the course of the consultations.

I look forward to receiving a prompt reaction of your authorities to this request so that we can arrange a mutually convenient date and place for consultations.

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<sup>1</sup> This document cancels and replaces document WT/DS159/1, G/L/291 dated 27 January 1999.