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UNITED STATES – CERTAIN MEASURES ON STEEL AND ALUMINIUM PRODUCTS

REQUEST TO JOIN CONSULTATIONS

Communication from the Russian Federation

The following communication, dated 15 June 2018, from the delegation of the Russian Federation to the delegation of the United States, and the delegation of the European Union, is circulated to the Dispute Settlement Body in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

I wish to refer to the consultations requested by the European Union pursuant to Articles 1 and 4 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes* ("DSU"), Article XXII:1 of the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994* ("GATT 1994"), and Article 14 of the *Agreement on Safeguards* concerning, *inter alia*, the import adjustments that the United States recently introduced in certain steel and aluminium products in the form of additional import duties, as stated in the communication of the European Union circulated to WTO Members on 6 June 2018 (WT/DS548/1, G/L/1243, G/SG/D54/1) titled "*United States – Certain Measures on Steel and Aluminium Products*" (DS548). My authorities instructed me to notify pursuant to Article 4.11 of the DSU the consulting Members and the Dispute Settlement Body of the desire of the Russian Federation to be joined in these consultations.

The measures at issue are applied to the imports of steel and aluminium products from the Russian Federation. The amount of Russia's exports of mentioned products to the United States has been significant, as it was acknowledged, in particular, in the reports of the US Department of Commerce following the investigations conducted under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. More specifically, in January–October 2017 Russia's exports of aluminium products amounted to 625 792 metric tons making Russia the second largest supplier of this type of products to the US.¹ Exports of steel products from Russia to the US in 2017 was around 3 123 691 metric tons which ranked Russia fifth among the US importers.²

Thus, the application by the United States of the challenged measures has significant detrimental effect on Russia's trade interests.

Therefore, the Russian Federation has substantial trade interest in these consultations.

¹ Report on findings of an investigation conducted by the U.S. Department of Commerce pursuant to Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, as amended (19 U.S.C. §1862), into the effect of imports of aluminum on the national security of the United States, January 17, 2018, p. 66.

² Report on findings of an investigation conducted by the U.S. Department of Commerce pursuant to Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, as amended (19 U.S.C. §1862), into the effect of imports of steel mill products on the national security of the United States, January 11, 2018, p. 28.