



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

*BAHRAIN, KINGDOM OF; KUWAIT, THE STATE OF; OMAN, THE SULTANATE OF; QATAR, THE STATE OF;
SAUDI ARABIA, KINGDOM OF; AND UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
(COOPERATION COUNCIL FOR THE ARAB STATES OF THE GULF "GCC")*

(Ferro Silico Manganese)

The following communication, dated on 5 October 2016, is being circulated at the request of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as President of the GCC on behalf of the GCC Member States: Bahrain, Kingdom of; Kuwait, the State of; Oman, the Sultanate of; Qatar, the State of; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; and United Arab Emirates.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia notifies the Committee on Safeguards, on behalf of GCC member States, pursuant to Article 12.1(a) of the Agreement on Safeguards, that the GCC Bureau of Technical Secretariat for Anti Injurious Practices in International Trade (TSAIP) (hereafter referred as "the Competent Authority") initiated a safeguard investigation on imports of Ferro Silico Manganese.

1. Date of initiation of the investigation

The investigation was initiated upon the decision of the Permanent Committee of Anti Injurious practices in the International Trade for the Arab States of the Gulf. The notice of initiation by the Competent Authority is published in the Official Gazette of the GCC-TSAIP Volume (8) on 3 October 2016.

2. Product subject to the investigation

The product covered by the investigation is Ferro-silico-manganese.
This product is imported to GCC member countries under HS Code: (72023000).

3. Reasons for the initiation of investigation

The investigation was initiated after receiving a documented safeguard application filed by Gulf Ferro Alloys Company (SABAYEK) pursuant to the GCC Common Law on Antidumping, Countervailing Measures and Safeguard Measures and its Rules of Implementation hereafter referred as "Regulation", in which it alleged that increased imports of the concerned product had caused serious injury to the GCC industry producing similar products.

The available data currently showed a situation of overall deterioration of the GCC industry indicators such as decline of sales, market share, profits, return on investment, production, capacity utilization rate, cash flow, employment, as well as the large increase in inventory, in conjunction with the increase of imports.

Accordingly, it was established that there was sufficient evidence in the application to justify the initiation of the investigation.

4. Procedures and deadlines

Interested parties willing to receive a questionnaire should request it no later than 10 days from the initiation of the investigation.

All interested parties have a period of 21 days, from the initiation of the investigation, to make themselves known. Any information which the interested parties may wish to submit before the Competent Authority should be submitted in writing.

According to Article (14) of the Rules of Implementation of the GCC Common Law, the Competent Authority may hold a public hearing for all known interested parties.

5. Contact point for corresponding

The address of the competent authority for correspondence is:

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