

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Committee on Safeguards

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

SLOVENIA

The following communication, dated 24 November 1998, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Slovenia.

Pursuant to Article 12.1(a) of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards and using the format adopted by the Committee on Safeguards (document G/SG/N/6), the Republic of Slovenia hereby gives notification of the initiation of a safeguards investigatory process.

1. Date of initiation of the investigation

On 15 October 1998, the Ministry of Agriculture decided to initiate an investigation process relating to threat of serious injury to the Slovenian swine meat market.

2. Products subject to investigation

The investigation involves products contained in tariff heading 0203 - Meat of swine, fresh, chilled or frozen.

3. Reasons for initiating the investigation

From August to September 1998, the import of swine meat increased by 49 per cent and continued to increase by an additional 17 per cent in October.

Month/year	1997 (tonnes)	1998 (tonnes)
August	1,856	1,978
September	2,493	2,950
October	2,761	3,443

The trend of import increase can also be observed in November 1998. Increased imports of swine meat have already caused serious injury to domestic breeders due to a heavy decrease in domestic swine purchase and thus putting pressure on domestic purchase prices. Domestic producers are suffering damage because of revenue loss. Continuation of this import trend would cause even greater damage for swine breeders.

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On the basis of these statistical import data, the Republic of Slovenia has determined that there is clear evidence that increased imports are threatening to cause serious damage, so it was decided to introduce a provisional safeguard measure, which was notified under Article 12.4 of the Agreement on Safeguards to the WTO on 21 November 1998.
