

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

**MOROCCO**

The following communication, dated 18 July 2000, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Morocco.

After an examination of the petition filed by the banana industry on the application of safeguard measures against the imports of bananas, the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Craftwork decided to initiate an investigation in accordance with the provisions of the said Agreement.

Pursuant to Article 12.1(a) of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards and on the basis of the format adopted by the Committee on Safeguards for notifications submitted under the Agreement on Safeguards (G/SG/N/6, 7 February 1995), the Kingdom of Morocco notifies that the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Craftwork has initiated an investigation with regard to safeguard measures in the following circumstances:

**1. Date when the investigation was initiated**

- The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Craftwork decided to initiate the investigation as of 26 June 2000.
- A communiqué from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Craftwork was published on 13 July 2000 in the economics newspaper with the largest circulation in the country (*L'Economiste*).

**2. Product subject to the investigation**

Fresh bananas under tariff heading 08.03.00.00.10 of the harmonized customs tariff of the Kingdom of Morocco.

**3. Reasons for the initiation of the investigation**

The investigation was initiated by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Craftwork pursuant to a petition filed by the domestic industry and on the basis of the information and evidence contained therein.

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Craftwork has evidence of substantial increases in the imports of bananas both relative to domestic production and in absolute terms, which have caused and threaten to cause serious injury to the domestic industry.

./.

The fact is that imports of bananas increased by 179 per cent between 1998 and 1999 as against a change of -9.8 per cent recorded between 1997 and 1998.

The evidence of serious injury shows significant overall impairment in the position of the domestic industry. Sales and profits have seriously declined and at the same time there has been a substantial drop in the prices paid to producers.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Craftwork decided to initiate an investigation.

---