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

EUROPEAN UNION

Certain new hybrid vehicles for the transport of persons

The following communication, dated and received on 30 October 2026, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the European Union.

Pursuant to Article 12.1(a) of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards ('Safeguards Agreement'), the European Union notifies that a safeguard investigation has been initiated as follows:

1. Specify the date when the investigation was initiated

The European Commission ('the Commission') initiated the investigation on 30 October 2026. The Notice of Initiation of the investigation has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Union.*[1]

2. Specify the product subject to the investigation

The product subject to this investigation is certain new hybrid vehicles, principally designed for the transport of nine or less persons, including the driver, with both internal combustion piston engine and [one or more] electric motor[s], as motors for propulsion (regardless of the number of wheels set in motion) whether capable or not of being charged by plugging to an external source of electric power, currently falling under CN codes ex 8703 40 10, ex 8703 50 00, ex 8703 60 10, and ex 8703 70 00 (TARIC code 8703 40 10 10, 8703 40 10 90, 8703 50 00 10, 8703 60 10 10, 8703 60 10 90, 8703 70 00 10).

3. Provide the reasons for the initiation of the investigation

The analysis of the information available indicates that total imports of the product concerned increased from 957 965 pieces in 2023 to 1 423 691 pieces in the period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026. In other words, imports of the product concerned increased by 49% over that period. The increase in imports appears to be the result of unforeseen developments, such as rapidly growing production in third countries, the closing of markets as a result of trade-restrictive measures adopted by a number of third countries in recent years, making the Union an attractive export destination, and the ensuing risk of further increased imports on the Union market.

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[1] OJ C, C/2026/5780, 30.10.2026

There is also sufficient evidence showing that the volumes of these imports are threatening to cause significant overall impairment of the position of the Union industry, based on economic indicators specified in Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2015/478 and Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2015/755. In particular, this evidence shows that imports of the product concerned have had, among other consequences, a negative impact on the market share of the Union producers in the most recent period and on the profitability. Furthermore, imports are entering the market at prices that are significantly below Union producers' prices. In addition, the rate of the increase in low-priced imports is accelerating, and stocks are increasingly present. A continued surge of low-priced imports is likely to cause serious injury to Union producers in the very near future.

4. Provide a point of contact for the investigation and identify the preferred means for corresponding

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5. Deadlines and procedures to present evidence and views by interested parties

In order to obtain the information necessary for the investigation, the Commission will collect questionnaire replies from producers, associations of producers, importers and dealers in the Union. The questionnaires will be published on the day of publication of this Notice on the website of the Directorate-General for Trade and Economic Security https://tron.trade.ec.europa.eu/investigations/ongoing. The completed questionnaires must reach the Commission within 21 days from the date of the date of publication of this Notice.

All interested parties including exporting producers, importers and dealers of the product concerned, their associations and third country representations are invited to make known their views in writing, submit information and to provide supporting evidence. Written submissions in a free format should be submitted within 21 days of the date of publication of this Notice in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

All interested parties may request to be heard by the Commission's investigation services. Any request to be heard must be made in writing and within 21 days of the date of publication of this Notice in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.