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*(Announcements)*PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON
COMMERCIAL POLICY

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**Notice extending the duration of the safeguard investigation concerning imports of certain steel
products**

(2018/C 457/07)

The Commission initiated a safeguards investigation on certain steel products on 26 March 2018 ⁽¹⁾.

Under Article 6.3 of Regulation (EU) 2015/478 on common rules for imports ⁽²⁾ and Article 4.3 of Regulation (EU) 2015/755 ⁽³⁾, such investigation shall be concluded no later than 9 months from the initiation of the investigation. This time limit may however be extended by a maximum period of 2 months in exceptional circumstances. If this is the case, the Commission shall publish a notice setting forth the duration of the extension and a summary of the reasons thereof.

Accordingly, the Commission hereby informs that the investigation will be extended by a maximum period of 2 months for the following reasons.

The size of the investigation, in terms of product scope (28 product categories) as well as number of interested parties (over 800 parties registered), is unprecedented. The investigation therefore entails a heavy administrative burden on the Commission in order to deal with a significant number of representations made by the parties, as well as a complex legal and economic analysis of recent data. There has been a great amount of interested parties which have actively participated in the investigation by providing questionnaire replies, submitting written comments and/or participating in hearings. The collection and analysis of such vast amounts of information received has required a significant amount of time and resources. Moreover, the current provisional safeguard measures adopted against certain steel products ensures the necessary temporary protection of the Union industry, so that an extension of the current investigation would not have negative effects.

It is, therefore, considered that the above situation qualifies as exceptional circumstances under which the Commission is allowed to extend the duration of the investigation beyond 9 months.

As a result, should definitive measures be adopted, the Commission would publish an Implementing Regulation by 1 February 2019 at the latest.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 111, 26.3.2018, p. 29.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 83, 27.3.2015, p. 16.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 123, 19.5.2015, p. 33.