

Original: English

CANADA - PATENT PROTECTION OF
PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from the United States

The following communication, dated 22 January 1998, from the Permanent Mission of the United States to the Permanent Mission of Canada, to the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission and to the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

Pursuant to paragraph 11 of Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU), the United States Government hereby notifies the European Communities that, in light of the substantial trade interest of the United States, it desires to be joined in the consultations under Article 64 of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (to the extent that it incorporates by reference Article XXII of GATT 1994) requested by the European Communities in a communication circulated to WTO Members on 12 January 1998 (WT/DS114/1), entitled "Canada - Patent Protection of Pharmaceutical Products".

The United States has a substantial trade interest in the market affected by the Canadian patent legislation referred to in the European Communities' request. In 1996, the United States exported to Canada 1,008 million U.S. dollars in pharmaceutical products, and imported from Canada 426 million U.S. dollars of such products.
