

Original: English

ARGENTINA - MEASURES AFFECTING IMPORTS OF
FOOTWEAR, TEXTILES, APPAREL AND OTHER ITEMS

Request for Consultations by the United States

The following communication, dated 4 October 1996, from the Permanent Mission of the United States to the Permanent Mission of Argentina and the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.4 of the DSU.

My authorities have instructed me to request consultations with the Government of Argentina pursuant to Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes, Article XXII:1 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 ("GATT 1994"), Article 14 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, Article 19 of the Agreement on the Implementation of Article VII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, and Article 7 of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing, regarding certain measures implemented by Argentina affecting imports of footwear, textiles, apparel and other items. The measures in question include:

- Executive Order 304/95 and any related measures which impose specific duties on various textile and apparel items in excess of the bound rate of 35 per cent *ad valorem* for these items provided in Argentina's Schedule LXIV;
- Resolution 299/96 and any related measures which impose specific duties on apparel and other items in excess of the bound rate of 35 per cent *ad valorem* for these items provided in Argentina's schedule LXIV;
- Resolution 305/95, as modified by Resolutions 998/95 and 103/96, and any other related measures, which impose specific duties on various footwear items in excess of the bound rate of 35 per cent *ad valorem* for these items provided in Argentina's schedule LXIV;
- Resolutions 2277/94, 389/95 and any related measures which impose a statistical tax of 3 per cent *ad valorem*, effective March 1995, on imports from all sources other than MERCOSUR countries;
- Resolutions 622/95, 26/96, 850/96 and any related measures which were imposed without proper notification and a meaningful opportunity to comment being afforded and which, individually, collectively, or in connection with other measures, impose

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unnecessary obstacles to trade, such as requirements relating to affidavits of product components mandating that, among other things, footwear, textile and apparel items be labelled with the number of the corresponding affidavit of product components assigned by the Undersecretariat of Foreign Trade.

Based upon information received to date, the United States considers that these measures violate the obligations of Argentina under, *inter alia*, Articles II, VII, VIII and X of the GATT 1994; Article 2 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade; Articles 1 through 8 of the Agreement on the Implementation of Article VII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994; and Article 7 of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing.

We look forward to receiving your reply to this request and to fixing a mutually acceptable date for consultations.