

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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## COMMUNICATION FROM GABON

The following communication has been received from the Sanitary Quality and Inspection Service of Gabon's Directorate-General for Fisheries and Aquaculture.

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The Directorate-General for Fisheries and Aquaculture hereby wishes to submit a request for the remainder of the funding for its planned national fishery laboratory.

This project, which is of such great importance to Gabon, is already under way, following a stage-by-stage approach in line with the financial resources raised to date. It does, however, suffer from a financing gap in meeting European Community deadlines.

The project currently has at its disposal a plot of land at Port-Môle in Libreville and architectural plans based on technical specifications endorsed by experts from the European Commission's Food and Veterinary Office (FVO).

Although the working drawings for the building are ready, the Directorate-General for Fisheries and Aquaculture has only CFAF 170 million, allocated from the State budget, available for its construction, whereas a total of CFAF 380 million is required. The scientific equipment and material required for the structure to operate in accordance with European standards have also yet to find funding.

It is for this reason, and in the light of the significance of this project, the objective of which is for Gabon to be included on List 1 of countries exporting fishery products to the European Community, that the Gabonese Government is particularly keen to receive assurance that the World Trade Organization will be able to assist it in identifying fresh sources of funding for this project, as follows:

- Funding of up to CFAF 210 million for the laboratory building, which is the most pressing need at present;
  - funding for a mission to Libreville by a laboratory equipment specialist to identify the material required for the laboratory to operate and to assess the costs involved.
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