

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES – MEASURES CONCERNING
MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS (HORMONES)**

Status Report by the European Communities

Addendum

The following communication, dated 4 February 1999, from the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 21.6 of the DSU.

Status report on the Implementation of the Recommendations and Rulings
in the dispute Regarding European Communities – Measures concerning
Meat and Meat Products (Hormones)

Pursuant to Article 21.6 of the DSU, the European Community wishes to make the second status report to the DSB on the progress made towards implementing its rulings and recommendations concerning the Community's prohibition on imports of bovine meat and meat products of animals treated with six growth hormones.

As we informed this Body in January, in light of the ruling of the Appellate Body, the Community initiated its reflections on how to implement the DSU rulings and recommendations. As a first step, the Community decide to launch without delay a complementary risk assessment, with a view to assessing the implications thereof for the Community's import prohibition. For this purpose a number of scientific studies are now underway, some of which were launched as early as February 1998.

Furthermore, in April 1998 the Commission formally requested the risk assessment data upon which the US, Canada, New Zealand and Australia based their decision to authorize hormone for growth promotion purposes. Finally, it appears that the US are now willing to supply additional information, and we await that with interest. The Canadian authorities have declined to provide data, which they indicate was submitted to them in confidence, and no reply has been received from the other authorities. We have urged them to reply in time.

Further details on the risk assessment exercise underway are, as we said in our first statement, on public record. As already explained, in the meantime, the inter-institutional consultation continue.

For the record, the EC would like to recall that, contrary to the US statement at the last DSB meeting, the EC has since the beginning favoured the establishment of a panel under the old TBT Agreement, something which the US refused to accept (see para. 2.34 of panel report).
