

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

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from Australia

The following communication, dated 19 January 2009, from the delegation of Australia to the delegation of the European Communities, the delegation of the United States and to the Chairman of 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), Australia notifies the United States that, in light of Australia's substantial trade interest, it desires to be joined in the consultations requested by the European Communities in the communication entitled *European Communities – Measures Concerning Meat and Meat Products (Hormones), Recourse to Article 21.5 of the DSU by the European Communities* and circulated to WTO Members on 8 January 2009 (WT/DS26/23).

Australia has substantial trade and commercial interests in this matter. In 2007, Australia was the world's largest exporter of beef products by value, including hormone-treated beef products. These exports were worth over US\$3.7 billion in the 2007 calendar year. Australia also exports beef products that are not hormone-treated to member states of the European Union, worth US\$91 million in the 2007-08 financial year.

In addition, Australia was a third party to the original *EC – Hormones* dispute that gave rise to the compliance obligations that are the subject of these consultations, and was also a third party in the closely related *US – Continued Suspension (Hormones)* (DS320) dispute.

Australia looks forward to receiving your reply.
