

**AUSTRALIA – CERTAIN MEASURES AFFECTING THE IMPORTATION
OF FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES**

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from the European Communities

The following communication, dated 1 November 2002, from the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission to the Permanent Mission of Australia, the Permanent Mission of the Philippines and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

We refer to the communications from the Permanent Mission of Philippines addressed to the Permanent Delegation of Australia and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body entitled "Australia – Certain Measures Affecting the Importation of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables" and "Australia – Certain Measures Affecting the Importation of Fresh Pineapple" and which have been circulated on 23 October 2002, in accordance with Article 4.4 of the DSU, as documents WT/DS270/1, G/L/575, G/SPS/GEN/345 and G/LIC/D/34 and WT/DS271/1, G/L/576 and G/SPS/GEN/346 respectively.

The communications refer to consultations being sought with Australia pursuant to Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU), Article XXII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 (GATT 1994) and Article 11 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) regarding certain measures affecting the importation of fresh fruit and vegetables, including bananas, and regarding certain measures affecting the importation of fresh pineapple, respectively. The communication referring to the consultations regarding certain measures affecting fresh fruit and vegetables, including bananas, also refers to Article 6 of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures.

In view of the substantial trade interest of the European Communities in these matters, my authorities have instructed me to notify you of the desire of the European Communities to be joined in the consultations between Australia and Philippines pursuant to Article 4.11 of the DSU.

The European Communities looks forward to receiving your reply to this request.
