

**AUSTRALIA – QUARANTINE REGIME FOR IMPORTS**

Request to Join Consultations

*Communication from Canada*

The following communication, dated 22 April 2003, from the Permanent Mission of Canada to the Permanent Mission of Australia, the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

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Pursuant to Article 4.11 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes* (DSU), the Government of Canada hereby notifies its desire to be joined in consultations requested by the European Communities under Article XXII of the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994*, Article 4 of the DSU, and Article 11 of the *Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures*, with respect to the Australian quarantine regime for imports. The relevant communication from the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission to the Permanent Mission of Australia, dated 3 April 2003, was circulated to WTO Members on 9 April 2003 (WT/DS287/1; G/L/618; G/SPS/GEN/384).

Canada has both a commercial and systemic interest in the issues under consultation. Canada has a significant systemic interest in the proper interpretation of the numerous WTO disciplines applicable to quarantine regimes for imports cited by the European Communities in its request for consultations. In addition, because the European Communities have specifically identified SPS issues relating to pork imports in its request for consultations, Canada, due to its significant amount of pork exports to Australia, has a substantial trade interest in these consultations.

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