

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES – MEASURES AFFECTING THE APPROVAL  
AND MARKETING OF BIOTECH PRODUCTS**

Request to Join Consultations

*Communication from Australia*

The following communication, dated 28 May 2003, from the Permanent Mission of Australia to the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission, the Permanent Mission of the United States and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

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In conformity with paragraph 11 of Article 4 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes* (DSU), I hereby notify Australia's desire to be joined in the consultations requested by the United States on 13 May 2003 pursuant to Article 4 of the DSU, Article 11 of the *Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures*, Article 19 of the *Agreement on Agriculture*, Article 14 of the *Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade* and Article XXII of the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994* with regard to certain measures taken by the European Communities and its member States affecting products of biotechnology. The request for consultations by the United States was circulated to Members on 20 May 2003 (WT/DS291/1, G/L/627, G/SPS/GEN/397, G/AG/GEN/60 and G/TBT/D/28 refer).

Australia is a significant producer and exporter of agricultural products. As such, Australia has a substantial trade interest in the consultations requested by the United States.

We look forward to the European Communities' confirmation of receipt and acceptance of this request to join the consultations and advice regarding the timing and venue for the consultations.

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