

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

Request to Join Consultations

*Communication from the United States*

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

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This concerns the request for consultations by Argentina in *European Communities – Measures Affecting the Approval and Marketing of Biotech Products*, circulated on 21 May 2003 (WT/DS293/1). My authorities have instructed me to notify the consulting Members and the Dispute Settlement Body of the desire of the United States to be joined in these consultations, pursuant to Article 4.11 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes*.

The United States has a substantial trade interest in these consultations. The consultations concern (1) the EC's suspension of granting of new approvals for biotech products and (2) EC member State import and marketing bans for certain EC-approved biotech products. The United States has requested its own consultations concerning these matters (WT/DS291/1). This suspension of new approvals and these member State import and marketing bans restrict substantial imports of agricultural and food products from the United States.

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