

**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 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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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 Argentina on 14 May 2003 pursuant to Article 4 of the DSU, Article 11.1 of the *Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures*, Article 19 of the *Agreement on Agriculture*, Article 14.1 of the *Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade* and Article XXII.1 of the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994* with regard to certain measures taken by the European Communities and its member States which affect products of biotechnology. The request for consultations by Argentina was circulated to Members on 21 May 2003 (WT/DS293/1, G/L/629, G/SPS/GEN/399, G/AG/GEN/62 and G/TBT/D/30 refer).

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

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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