

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

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from Canada

The following communication, dated 30 May 2003, from the Permanent Mission of Canada 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.

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 Argentina pursuant to Article 4 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes* (DSU), Article 11.1 of the *Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures*, Article 19 of the *Agreement on Agriculture*, Article 14.1 of the *Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade* (TBT Agreement), and Article XXII:1 of the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994*, with respect to certain measures taken by the European Communities (EC) and its Member States affecting products of biotechnology (biotech products). The relevant communication from the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the Permanent Mission of the European Communities, dated 14 May 2003, was circulated to WTO Members on 21 May 2003.

Canada has both a substantial and systemic interest in the issues under consultation. Canada is one of the world's largest producers of biotech products. In particular, it grows and exports several canola (rapeseed) and corn biotech varieties that are the subject of applications for approval in the EC's regulatory approvals regime, or that have been approved but are banned in individual EC Member States. As a consequence, Canada has a substantial trade interest in these consultations. Moreover, Canada has a significant systemic interest in the proper interpretation of WTO disciplines applicable to biotech product approvals regimes, as cited by Argentina in its request for consultations.
