

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES – MEASURES CONCERNING
MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS (HORMONES)**

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from the United States

The following communication, dated 16 January 2009, from the delegation of the United States to the delegation of the European Communities, the delegation of Canada and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

I am writing concerning the request for consultations by the European Communities ("EC") pursuant to Article 4 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes* ("DSU") on *European Communities – Measures Concerning Meat and Meat Products (Hormones)* ("EC – Hormones"), circulated on 8 January 2009 (WT/DS48/21). Pursuant to Article 4.11 of the DSU, 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. Our desire to join these consultations is without prejudice to our view that consultations are neither provided for nor required under Article 21.5 of the DSU.

The United States has a substantial trade interest in this matter as a major exporter of meat and meat products to the EC. The United States has participated actively in this dispute since it began in 1996, and Canada has participated actively in the US dispute on *EC – Hormones*. In addition, the EC has also requested consultations with the United States pursuant to Article 4 of the DSU concerning the US dispute on *EC – Hormones*.
