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EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES - MEASURES CONCERNING
MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS (HORMONES)

Surveillance of Implementation of Recommendations and Rulings

Request for Arbitration by the European Communities

The following communication, dated 8 April 1998, from the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated at the request of that delegation.

On 13 February 1998, the Dispute Settlement Body adopted recommendations and rulings in respect of the Panel and Appellate Body reports on “EC - Measures Concerning Meat and Meat Products (Hormones)” (WT/DS26, WT/DS48). On 13 March 1998, the European Communities announced to the DSB that it would require a “reasonable period of time” in order to fulfil its obligations under the WTO in respect of this matter.

On 26 March 1998, pursuant to Article 21.3(b) of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU), we attempted to reach agreement with Canada and the United States on a “reasonable period of time” for our implementation of the DSB rulings and recommendations. A further effort to elicit a response was made on 6 April. No agreement could, however, so far be achieved. In order to preserve the rights of the European Communities in this case under the DSU, we hereby request that the “reasonable period of time” be determined by binding arbitration pursuant to Article 21.3(c) of the DSU.

Pursuant to footnote 12 to the DSU, we will open discussions with Canada and the United States with a view to achieving agreement on an Arbitrator within the next ten days.

Please circulate this request to Members of the Dispute Settlement Body and request the Secretariat to notify the Council for Trade in Goods.
