

Original: French

SLOVAK REPUBLIC - MEASURES CONCERNING THE IMPORTATION  
OF DAIRY PRODUCTS AND THE TRANSIT OF CATTLE

Request for Consultations by Switzerland

The following communication, dated 7 May 1998, from the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic and to the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.4 of the DSU.

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My authorities have instructed me to request consultations with the Slovak Republic pursuant to Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes, Article XXII:1 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 ("GATT 1994"), Article 11 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures ("SPS Agreement") and Article 6 of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures ("Import Licensing Agreement") concerning Slovak regulations on the importation of dairy products and the transit of cattle, pursuant to Decree No. 4/1996 of 2 July 1996 (Prikazny list cislo 4/1996) based on Decision No. 458 of 25 June 1996 of the Government of the Slovak Republic (Uznesenia C.458). These measures are having an adverse effect on Swiss cheese and cattle exports.

It would appear that some of these measures are not consistent with the Slovak Republic's obligations under Articles I, III, V, X and XI of GATT 1994. It would also seem that these measures are not consistent with Article 5 of the SPS Agreement and Article 5 of the Import Licensing Agreement. Switzerland reserves the right to present additional facts and arguments during the consultations.

I look forward to receiving your reply to this request and to setting a mutually convenient date for the consultations. We suggest that we meet during the week of 26 June 1998.

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