

Original: English

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

Request for Consultations by the United States

The following communication, dated 26 January 1996, from the Permanent Mission of the United States to the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission and to the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.4 of the DSU.

My authorities have instructed me to request consultations with the European Communities pursuant to Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes ("DSU"), Article 11 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Article 14 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, Article 19 of the Agreement on Agriculture, and Article XXII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, regarding the Council Directive Prohibiting the Use in Livestock Farming of Certain Substances Having a Hormonal Action and related measures.

These measures restrict or prohibit imports of meat and meat products from the United States and other Members of the World Trade Organization and raise questions concerning the obligations of the European Communities under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, and the Agreement on Agriculture. The provisions of these agreements with which these measures appear to be inconsistent include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, Article III or Article XI;
2. Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Articles 2, 3 and 5;
3. Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, Article 2; and
4. Agreement on Agriculture, Article 4.

We look forward to receiving your reply to the present request and to fixing a mutually convenient date for consultations.