

**ARGENTINA - PATENT PROTECTION FOR PHARMACEUTICALS
AND TEST DATA PROTECTION FOR AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS**

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from Switzerland

The following communication, dated 20 May 1999, from the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to 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 paragraph 11 of Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU), Switzerland hereby notifies its desire to be joined in the consultations requested by the United States in document WT/DS171/1 circulated on 10 May 1999, entitled "Argentina - Patent protection for pharmaceuticals and test data protection for agricultural chemicals".

Switzerland considers to have a substantial trade interest in these consultations. In 1998, Switzerland exported to Argentina 150 million Swiss Francs in chemical products and 50 million Swiss Francs in pharmaceutical products.
