

AUSTRALIA – QUARANTINE REGIME FOR IMPORTS

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from Chile

The following communication, dated 16 April 2003, from the Permanent Mission of Chile to the Permanent Mission of Australia, the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

I have the honour to refer to the request for consultations by the European Communities regarding the quarantine regime for imports applied by Australia, circulated on 9 April in document WT/DS287/1, G/L/618, G/SPS/GEN/384.

The quarantine regime at issue in the consultations is being applied to certain Chilean export products. Indeed, a process to obtain an Import Risk Analysis (IRA) for Chilean table grapes was formally initiated in 1996, and since that process has not yet been completed, Australia has yet to allow the said product to enter its market. Moreover, a similar process was initiated for other Chilean products last year, and we hope to extend it in the future to other fresh fruit. Consequently, Chile has a substantial trade interest, and a substantial and systemic interest in this case, by virtue of which, pursuant to Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU), the Government of Chile respectfully asks to be joined in the above-mentioned consultations.

I would be grateful if you could kindly inform us of the date and place of the consultations, and I take this opportunity to renew the assurances of my highest consideration.
