EEC - IMPORT REGIME FOR BANANAS

Communication from the European Communities

The following communication, dated 3 February 1993, addressed to the Permanent Representatives of Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Venezuela in Geneva, has been received from the Permanent Representative of the Commission of the European Communities, with the request that it be circulated to contracting parties.

Referring to your letter dated 28 January 1993, I am sorry not to be able to accept your request to hold formal consultations under Article XXII:1 of the General Agreement on the future import regime for bananas in the European Communities. The meeting of the Council of the European Communities on 17 December 1992 did not in fact result in a formal decision on this regime; the result of the debate was limited to a political orientation about some of the features of the future common market organization for bananas which still need to be formalized in the internal decision-making process of the Community institutions. The present preparatory works cannot therefore be considered as a measure under Articles XXII:1 or XXIII:1 of the General Agreement allowing for formal consultations under one of these provisions.

This is without prejudice to our willingness to continue the informal exchange of views on the future import regime for bananas in the European Communities and to have this exchange of views at all levels, including the political level. I can assure you that my authorities are well aware of the very high importance of this issue for your country and the future development of the multilateral trade system.