ITALY - FISCAL DUTIES ON BANANAS

Request for Article XXII Consultations by Colombia

The following communication, dated 25 February 1987, has been received from Colombia.

On 17 June last, the Council of Ministers of the Italian Government approved a bill on "amendments to the fiscal duty system on consumption of bananas"; section 1 of the bill states the following:

"The fiscal duty on consumption, established by section 1 of Law No. 986 of 9 October 1964, and subsequent amendments thereto, shall not be applicable to fresh and dried bananas and banana flour imported from the member States of the European Economic Community, including the French overseas departments, the overseas countries and territories associated with the EEC, and the ACP countries (African, Caribbean and Pacific States associated with the EEC), nor to bananas exported by any of the above-mentioned States, even if produced in a third country."

This bill is at present awaiting approval by the Italian Parliament, in which case bananas coming from other exporting countries would be in an unfavourable situation, in particular Colombia which is the leading supplying contracting party on the Italian market.

We consider that this measure is in breach of the General Agreement, in particular Articles I and II thereof, and accordingly my authorities consider it necessary to enter into consultations with the European Economic Community under Article XXII of the General Agreement.

I would be glad if you would bring this communication to the knowledge of the other contracting parties.