

JAPAN - MEASURES CONCERNING HARBOUR TRANSPORT

Communication from the European Communities

The following communication, dated 13 February 1997 addressed to the Chairman of the Council for Trade in Goods, has been received from the Permanent Delegation of the European Communities with the request that it be circulated to WTO Members.

My authorities have asked me to inform you that on Wednesday, 5 February 1997, the European Communities, in accordance with Article VIII, second paragraph, of GATT 1994, officially requested the Government of Japan to review the operation of Japan's laws and regulations (including administrative guidance and practices) in the light of the provisions of that Article with a view to minimising the incidence and complexity of import formalities imposed on trade in goods with the European Communities through the so-called "prior consultation" system as currently operated by the Japan Harbour Transportation Association (JHTA). The European Communities also requested the Government of Japan to provide written indications to it regarding the manner in which it will perform this review and the improvements it intends to make.