

INDIA – MEASURES AFFECTING THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from the United States

The following communication, dated 22 October 1998, from the Permanent Mission of the United States to the Permanent Mission of India 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, the United States Government hereby notifies the Government of India that, in light of the substantial trade interest of the United States, it desires to be joined in the consultations under Article XXII:1 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 ("GATT 1994") requested by the European Communities in a communication circulated to WTO Members on 12 October 1998 (WT/DS146/1), entitled "India – Measures Affecting the Automotive Sector".

The United States has a substantial trade interest in the automobiles and automobile parts and components that are the subject of the EC request. The U.S. trade interest in the Indian automotive regime, and the restrictive nature of this regime on U.S. trade can be seen in the following figures. The United States exported only \$29 million in automotive vehicles and parts (HS chapter 87) to India in calendar year 1997. By contrast, U.S. exports of automotive vehicles and parts in chapter 87 to East Asia amounted to \$61 billion in the same period. U.S. chapter 87 exports were 9 per cent of total U.S. exports to East Asia and less than one per cent of U.S. exports to India.
