

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES - IMPLEMENTATION OF THE URUGUAY ROUND COMMITMENTS CONCERNING RICE

Request for Consultations by Uruguay

The following communication, dated 12 December 1995, from the Permanent Delegation of Uruguay to the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission and to the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.4 of the DSU.

The Permanent Delegation of Uruguay in Geneva presents its compliments to the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission and has the honour hereby to request consultations under Article XXII:1 of GATT 1994 with respect to the implementation of the commitments concerning rice undertaken by the European Community in the Uruguay Round.

Uruguay has a significant share in the world market for rice, in which it currently holds ninth place with annual sales of over 400,000 tonnes. It is also the country that exports the highest percentage of its output, with foreign sales accounting for roughly 77 per cent of production.

The above-mentioned commitments of the European Community, in particular note 7 of the agricultural schedule establishing the ceiling for the margin of preference, gave rise to legitimate expectations for the Uruguayan export sector to be able to reestablish trade flows that had existed in the past with Member countries of the European Community.

However, the implementation system decided on by the Community, as well as other instruments that would enter into force in the near future applying to rice imports, have features that are a matter of concern to the Government of Uruguay.

In the hope that it will be possible to initiate these consultations as soon as possible, the Permanent Delegation of Uruguay takes this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission the assurances of its highest consideration.