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CANADA - MEASURES GOVERNING THE SALE OF WINE

REQUEST TO JOIN CONSULTATIONS

Communication from the United States

The following communication, dated 19 January 2018, from the delegation of the United States to the delegation of Canada, the delegation of Australia and to the Chairperson of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

This concerns the request for consultations by Australia on *Canada – Measures Governing the Sale of Wine*, circulated on 16 January 2018 (WT/DS537/1). My authorities have instructed me to notify the consulting Members and the Dispute Settlement Body of the desire of the United States to be joined in these consultations, pursuant to Article 4.11 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes*.

The United States has a substantial trade interest in these consultations. Australia's request for consultations relates to measures maintained by the Canadian province of British Columbia ("BC") governing the sale of wine in grocery stores, as well as other measures governing the sale of wine, which are maintained by the provinces of BC, Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia, and by the Canadian federal government. The United States last year requested consultations with Canada concerning the BC measures governing the sale of wine in grocery stores (WT/DS531/1). In 2016, US exports of wine to Canada were valued at US \$431 million. The measures identified in Australia's request for consultations may have a substantial impact on the sale and consequently on the importation of US wine into Canada.
