

**AUSTRALIA – MEASURES AFFECTING THE IMPORTATION OF APPLES
FROM NEW ZEALAND**

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from the United States

The following communication, dated 14 September 2007, from the delegation of the United States to the delegation of Australia, the delegation of New Zealand and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

This concerns the request for consultations by New Zealand regarding *Australia – Measures Affecting the Importation of Apples from New Zealand*, circulated on 4 September 2007 (WT/DS367/1). 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. US apple exports accounted for 16% of world trade in apples by volume in 2006. From July 2006 to June 2007, the United States exported 636,000 metric tons of apples, worth over \$600 million. However, apples from the United States are prohibited from importation into Australia just as New Zealand's apples were until the recent restrictions were imposed. The phytosanitary measures specified in Biosecurity Australia (2006) *Final Import Risk Analysis Report for Apples from New Zealand* appear to be directed at risks that also form the basis for Australia's prohibition on the importation of US apples.
