

**CHINA – VALUE-ADDED TAX ON INTEGRATED CIRCUITS**

Request to Join Consultations

*Communication from the European Communities*

The following communication, dated 26 March 2004, from the delegation of the European Commission to the delegation of China, the delegation of the United States and to the Chairperson of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

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We refer to the communication from the Permanent Mission of the United States addressed to the Permanent Mission of China and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body entitled "China – Value-added tax on integrated circuits" which has been circulated on 23 March 2004, in accordance with Article 4.4 of the DSU, as documents WT/DS309/1, G/L/675, S/L/160.

The communication refers to consultations being sought with China pursuant to Articles 1 and 4 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes* ("DSU"), Article XXII:1 of the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994* ("GATT 1994") and Article XXII:1 of the *General Agreement on Trade in Services* ("GATS") regarding China's value-added tax on integrated circuits.

In view of the substantial trade interest of the European Communities in these matters, my authorities have instructed me to notify you of the desire of the European Communities to be joined in the consultations between the United States and China pursuant to Article 4.11 of the DSU.

The European Communities looks forward to receiving your reply to this request.

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