

**CHINA – GRANTS, LOANS AND OTHER INCENTIVES**

Request to Join Consultations

*Communication from the European Communities*

The following communication, dated 27 January 2009, from the delegation of the European Communities to the delegation of China, the delegation of Guatemala and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

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Pursuant to Article 4.11 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes* (DSU), the European Communities hereby notifies the Government of Guatemala, the Government of China, and the Dispute Settlement Body that, in the light of the substantial trade interest of the European Communities, it desires to be joined in the consultations requested by Guatemala in a communication circulated to WTO Members on 22 January 2009 (WT/DS390/1, G/L/882, G/SCM/D83/1, G/AG/GEN/82) entitled *China – Grants, Loans and Other Incentives*.

The European Communities has a significant and growing trading relationship with China and exports from China to the European Communities may be assumed to be affected by the measures challenged by Guatemala. China is currently the European Communities' second largest trading partner and the biggest source of imports. The European Communities is China's biggest trading partner. From 2004 to 2007 the overall import value of Chinese goods into the European Communities increased from €128,7 billion to €232,6 billion. A significant share of these imports appears to be potentially affected by the challenged measures. The European Communities therefore has a substantial trade interest in the present dispute.

The European Communities looks forward to being informed of the date and venue of the consultations.

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