

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES - REGIME FOR THE IMPORTATION,
SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF BANANAS**

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from Dominica

The following communication, dated 10 September 1998, from the Permanent Representative to the WTO for the Commonwealth of Dominica to the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission, the Permanent Missions of Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and the United States and to the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated pursuant to the procedure provided for under Article 21.5 of the DSU.

I refer to the request for consultations by Ecuador, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and the United States, circulated by the World Trade Organization (WTO) in its note WTO/DS27/18, dated 31 August 1998.

Exports of bananas from Dominica account for some 75 per cent of total exports, all of which are marketed within the European Union. Moreover, the production and marketing of bananas provide the main source of employment for the population and an income for most households. Any disruption in that trade would have serious consequences, not only for the economy of the country, but also for social stability.

In the light of the importance of banana exports to the economy and social cohesion of Dominica and the resulting substantial interest which the country has in the European Union's regime for the import, sale and distribution of bananas, the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica requests participation in the consultations requested for by the countries mentioned above.

I would be grateful if I could be given an early response to Dominica's request for participation in these consultations.
