

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

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from the European Communities

The following communication, dated 13 September 2007, from the delegation of the European Communities 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.

Pursuant to Article 4.11 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes*, the European Communities hereby notifies the Governments of Australia, of New Zealand 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 New Zealand in a communication circulated to WTO Members on 4 September 2007 (WT/DS367/1, G/L/825, G/SPS/GEN/796) entitled *Australia – Measures Affecting the Importation of Apples from New Zealand*.

The EC is a major importer and exporter of agricultural goods. At the same time, the EC attaches great importance to human, animal or plant health and has instituted a comprehensive science-based system to ensure the safety of the food chain. The European Communities thus has a substantial trade interest in the present dispute and in the correct implementation of the *Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures*.
