

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

Recourse to Article 21.5 of the DSU by Ecuador

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from Côte d'Ivoire

The following communication, dated 30 November 2006, from the delegation of Côte d'Ivoire to the delegation of the European Communities, the delegation of Ecuador and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

By note WT/DS27/65 of 20 November 2006 from the WTO Secretariat, all WTO Members were advised that Ecuador had requested consultations with the European Communities, under Article 21.5 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding, on the Community regime for the importation of bananas. We have been informed, however, that Ecuador has submitted a new request for consultations under Article XXII of the GATT, which opens the way for participation by third parties.

A reading of the content of the request for consultations shows beyond doubt that it is the preferential regime enjoyed by the ACP banana exporting States which is Ecuador's main point of dispute, to the exclusion of any other issue.

You are doubtless aware of the importance of this matter for the ACP Group of States, and you will readily understand our need to participate in these consultations. Pursuant to Article 4.11 of the DSU, we hereby formally inform you of the interest of the ACP States in participating fully, from the outset, in any consultations to be held between the European Communities and Ecuador.

We hope to be able to count on your support with regard to our participation in these consultations.
