

**UNITED STATES – CONTINUED SUSPENSION OF OBLIGATIONS  
IN THE EC – HORMONES DISPUTE**

Request to Join Consultations

*Communication from Australia*

The following communication, dated 19 November 2004, from the delegation of Australia to the delegation of the United States, the delegation of the European Communities and to the Chairperson of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

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I refer to the "Request for Consultations by the European Communities" regarding the continued suspension of obligations in the *EC – Hormones* dispute, made on 8 November 2004, pursuant to Article XXII:1 of the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994* ("GATT 1994") and Article 4 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes* ("DSU") which was circulated to Members on 10 November 2004 (WT/DS320/1 refers).

Australia was a third party to the *EC – Hormones* dispute that gave rise to the suspension of concessions and other obligations that are the subject of these consultations. In addition, as a significant exporter, both globally and to the US market, of a number of products that are subject to punitive import duties imposed by the US on imports from the EC, notably beef products, Australia has a substantial trade interest in the consultations requested by the European Communities. Australia hereby notifies, pursuant to Article 4.11 of the DSU, its desire to be joined in the consultations between the European Communities and United States.

Australia looks forward to receiving your reply.

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