

**INDIA – MEASURES AFFECTING THE IMPORTATION AND SALE
OF WINES AND SPIRITS FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from Australia

The following communication, dated 4 December 2006, from the delegation of Australia to the delegation of India, the delegation of the European Communities and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

Pursuant to paragraph 11 of Article 4 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes* (DSU), Australia notifies the Government of India that, in light of the substantial trade interest of Australia, it desires to be joined in the consultations requested by the European Communities in the communication entitled *India – Measures Affecting the Importation and Sale of Wines and Spirits from the European Communities* and circulated to WTO Members on 23 November 2006 (WT/DS352/1).

Australia has substantial trade interests in this matter. The volume of exports of wine from Australia to India has been increasing significantly in recent years. In volume terms, Australia's wine exports have increased from around 62,000 litres in 2000 to around 255,000 litres in 2005; and in value terms Australia's wine exports have increased significantly, from around \$A 205,000 in 2000 to around \$A 1.796 million in 2005. Australia's market share of India's wine imports is also growing and has increased from 1.6% in 2000 to 11.9% in 2005. The Australian wine industry is heavily export-oriented, with 60.1% of wine production (by volume) exported in 2005 and around 50% of Australian wineries involved in export trade.

Australia looks forward to receiving your reply.
