

**ARGENTINA – MEASURES RELATING TO TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES**

Request to Join Consultations

*Communication from the European Union*

The following communication, dated 21 December 2012, from the delegation of the European Union to the delegation of Argentina, the delegation of Panama and to the Chairperson of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

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Pursuant to Article 4.11 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes* (DSU), the European Union hereby notifies the Government of Argentina, the Government of Panama, and the Dispute Settlement Body that, in the light of the substantial trade interest of the European Union, it desires to be joined in the consultations requested by Panama in a communication circulated to WTO Members on 19 December 2012 (WT/DS453) entitled *Argentina – Measures Relating to Trade in Goods and Services*.

The consultations will address a number of horizontal trade-restrictive measures imposed by Argentina, which form part of the broader legal framework for the control of trade deficits and the promotion of import substitution policies. These measures appear to target certain countries, among which Panama, but also several Member States of the European Union. In addition, since European products are largely exported to the Argentine market, the measures subject to consultations may have a considerable impact on trade in goods and services from the European Union. Accordingly, the European Union has a substantial trade interest in this dispute.

The European Union looks forward to being informed of the date and venue of the consultations.

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