

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES – PROTECTION OF TRADEMARKS  
AND GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL  
PRODUCTS AND FOODSTUFFS**

Request to Join Consultations

*Communication from Sri Lanka*

The following communication, dated 16 April 2003, from the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission, the Permanent Mission of the United States and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

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Pursuant to paragraph 11 of Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU), the Government of Sri Lanka hereby notifies the consulting parties and the Dispute Settlement Body that, in light of Sri Lanka's substantial trade interest, Sri Lanka desires to be joined in the consultations under Article 64 of the TRIPS Agreement (and, as incorporated by reference, Article XXIII of the GATT 1994) requested by the United States in a communication circulated to WTO Members on 1 June 1999 (WT/DS174/1) and 10 April 2003 (WT/DS174/1/Add.1) entitled "European Communities – Protection of Trademarks and Geographical Indications for Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs".

Sri Lanka has a substantial trade interest in exporting Ceylon Tea and Ceylon Cinnamon into the EU market. Sri Lanka is concerned that EU regulations which is the subject of above consultations may limit registration of GI protection for above products in the EU market.

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