

**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 Suriname*

The following communication, dated 30 November 2006, from the delegation of Suriname 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.

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By note WT/DS27/65/Rev.1 of 29 November 2006 from the WTO Secretariat, all Member States of the WTO were informed that Ecuador had asked to engage in consultations with the European Communities, in the framework of the Agreement on the Settlement of Disputes on the Community regime on the importation of bananas. However, we have been informed that Ecuador submitted a new request for consultations under Article XXII of the GATT, which now opens the way to participation by third parties.

The content of the request for consultations indicates, without any doubt, that it is the preferential regime from which the ACP banana-exporting States benefit, with the exclusion of any other issue, which is essentially being contested by Ecuador.

You are well aware of the significant of this matter to the ACP Group of States and will therefore readily appreciate our need to participate in these consultations. In accordance with Article 4, paragraph 11 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding, we now formally advise you of the interest of the ACP States to participate fully, from the very beginning, in the consultations that could be held between the European Communities and Ecuador.

The Mission of the Republic of Suriname to the WTO requests that the Communities recognize "the substantial interest" of the ACP States in this matter as presented by Ecuador and look forward to your support of our participation in these consultations.

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