

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

WT/DS290/6

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

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from the United States

The following communication, dated 29 April 2003, from the Permanent Mission of the United States to the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission, the Permanent Mission of Australia and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

This concerns the request for consultations by Australia on *European Communities – Protection of Trademarks and Geographical Indications for Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs*, circulated on 23 April 2003 (WT/DS290/1). My authorities have instructed me to notify the consulting Members and the Dispute Settlement Body of the desire of the United States to be joined in these consultations, pursuant to Article 4.11 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes*. The United States has a substantial trade interest in these consultations. They concern Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2081/92, regarding which the United States has requested its own consultations (WT/DS174/1 and WT/DS174/1/Add.1). This regulation protects trademarks and geographical indications for agricultural products and foodstuffs in the European Communities, but does not offer adequate protection to US geographical indications and trademarks.
