

**UNITED STATES – SECTION 306 OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1974
AND AMENDMENTS THERETO**

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from Australia

The following communication, dated 23 June 2000, from the Permanent Mission of Australia to the Permanent Mission of the United States, the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

I refer to the request for consultations by the European Communities with respect to "United States – Section 306 of the Trade Act of 1974 and Amendments Thereto" (WT/DS200/1) which was circulated to Members on 13 June 2000.

Australia has a substantial trade interest in these consultations:

- Australia exported some \$A 8,414 million of goods and \$A 4,645 million of services to the United States in 1999;
- Australia is a significant exporter of raw material inputs to the European Communities and to other Members which export to the United States. Marketing plans and supply arrangements of those raw material markets could be affected by changes to the lists of products subject to the suspension of concessions by the United States;
- Australia has a systemic interest in the security and predictability of the multilateral trading system, including any clarification of WTO rights on the suspension of concessions.

Given Australia's substantial interest in this matter, I have been instructed by my authorities to request, pursuant to Article 4.11 of the DSU, that Australia be joined in the consultations.
