

PHILIPPINES – TAXES ON DISTILLED SPIRITS

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from the United States

The following communication, dated 10 August 2009, from the delegation of the United States to the delegation of the Philippines, the delegation of the European Communities 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 the European Communities regarding *Philippines – Taxes on Distilled Spirits*, circulated on 30 July 2009 (WT/DS396/1). 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*.

As a leading producer and exporter of spirits, the United States has a substantial trade interest in these consultations. Over the period 2004-2008, US exports of spirits worldwide averaged over \$970 million,¹ making the United States one of the world's largest exporters of spirits.

¹ Statistics based on distilled spirits under HS 2208. Distilled spirits also includes some tariff lines under HS 2207.