WORLD TRADE

ORGANIZATION

WT/DS27/37 27 November 1998

(98-4771)

Original: Spanish

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES - REGIME FOR THE IMPORTATION, SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF BANANAS

Request by Panama Regarding Consultations with Ecuador

The following communication, dated 20 November 1998, from the Permanent Mission of Panama to the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission, the Permanent Mission of Ecuador and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated pursuant to the procedure provided for under Article 21.5 of the DSU.

The Permanent Mission of Panama to the World Trade Organization presents its compliments to the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission to the World Trade Organization and refers to the Request to Reactivate Consultations of 17 September 1998 by Ecuador, circulated to Members by the WTO Secretariat in document WT/DS27/30 dated 16 November 1998.

At the same time, it refers to its note MPP-OMC-155-98 to the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission in which it expressed Panama's desire to be joined in the mentioned consultations. Panama still considers that the measures adopted by the European Communities affect its trade interests as a substantial supplier of bananas to the European Communities. This Mission would therefore like to express its view that Panama should, and indeed must, continue to be associated with the consultations.

We respectfully request the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission to the WTO to let us know its position with respect to Panama's participation in the consultations requested by Ecuador.