

Original: English

ARGENTINA - SAFEGUARD MEASURES ON IMPORTS OF FOOTWEAR

Request for Consultations from the European Communities

The following communication, dated 3 April 1998, from the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission to the Permanent Mission of Argentina and to the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.4 of the DSU.

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My authorities have instructed me to request consultations with the Government of Argentina under Article XXII:1 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 ("GATT 1994") and pursuant to Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes ("DSU") and Article 14 of the Agreement on Safeguards with regard to the provisional and the definitive safeguard measures imposed by Argentina on imports of footwear.

Under Resolution 226/97, published in the Official Journal of the Argentine Republic No. 28592 on 24 February 1997, Argentina imposed a provisional safeguard measure in the form of minimum specific duties on imports of footwear effective as of 25 February 1997. Under Resolution 987/97, published in the Official Journal of the Argentine Republic No. 28729 on 12 September 1997, Argentina imposed a definitive safeguard measure in the form of minimum specific duties on imports of footwear effective as of 13 September 1997. The European Communities consider that the above measures are in breach of Argentina's obligations under the provisions of the Agreement on Safeguards, in particular, but not necessarily exclusively, of Articles 2, 4, 5, 6 and 12 of the said Agreement and in violation of Article XIX of GATT 1994.

I look forward to receiving the reaction of your authorities to this request so that we can arrange a mutually convenient date and place to begin consultations, which the European Communities suggest to be held in Geneva during the week beginning 20 April 1998.

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