

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

Recourse to Article 21.5 of the DSU by Ecuador

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from Saint Lucia

The following communication, dated 30 November 2006, from the delegation of Saint Lucia to the delegation of the European Communities, the delegation of Ecuador and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

Member States of the WTO were notified in WT/DS27/65 of 20 November 2006, entitled *European Communities – Regime for the Importation, Sale and Distribution of Bananas, Recourse to Article 21.5 of the DSU by Ecuador*, that Ecuador requested consultations with the European Communities, pursuant to Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU) and Article XXIII of the GATT regarding compliance of the EC measures with Articles I, II and XIII of the GATT 1994. In its revised note, WT/DS27/65/Rev.1 of 29 November 2006, Ecuador submitted a new request superseding the former, for consultations under Article XXII relative to consultations, indicating that it did not "intend[ed] to exclude participation by other interested parties in the consultations".

The content of the request for consultations indicates, without any doubt, that it is the preferential regime from which Saint Lucia, as a Member of the ACP group of banana-exporting States benefits, which is essentially being contested by Ecuador.

You are well aware of the significance of this matter as well as the vital importance of bananas to Saint Lucia, which consequently has a substantial interest in the EC banana trade. Therefore, in accordance with Article 4.11 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding, I formally advise you of Saint Lucia's interest in and desire to participate fully in the consultations which will be held between the European Communities and Ecuador.

I look forward to your support and approval of this formal request to participate in these consultations.
