

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

Request to Join Consultations

*Communication from Panama*

The following communication, dated 31 August 1998, from the Permanent Mission of Panama to the Permanent Delegation of the European Communities, is circulated in accordance with the DSU.

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Panama to the World Trade Organization presents its compliments to the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission to the World Trade Organization and hereby informs it that the National Government of Panama takes note of the request of the Governments of Ecuador, the United States, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, circulated in document WT/DS27/18, for the holding of consultations with the European Communities on its compliance with the recommendations and rulings in *European Communities - Regime for the Importation, Sale and Distribution of Bananas*, within the reasonable period established therefor, which expires on 1 January 1999.

The Republic of Panama also wished to express its desire to be joined in the consultations requested by Ecuador, the United States, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico because it considers that the measures adopted by the European Communities affect its trade interests as a substantial supplier of bananas to the European Communities.

The Permanent Mission of Panama to the World Trade Organization awaits the reply of the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission to the World Trade Organization and takes this opportunity to renew to the Delegation the assurances of its consideration.

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