



27 January 2016

(16-0557)

Page: 1/1

Original: English

COLOMBIA – MEASURES CONCERNING IMPORTED SPIRITS

REQUEST TO JOIN CONSULTATIONS

Communication from the United States

The following communication, dated 25 January 2016, from the delegation of the United States to the delegation of Colombia, the delegation of the European Union and to the Chairperson 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 Union on *Colombia – Measures Concerning Imported Spirits* (WT/DS502/1). 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*. Between January 2012 and December 2014, US exports to Colombia of spirits subject to the national excise tax and other measures at issue were valued at nearly \$7 million and accounted for over three per cent by value of Colombian imports of spirits. Furthermore, US exports of rum accounted for twelve per cent by value of Colombian imports of rum in 2014. As such, the United States has a substantial trade interest in these consultations.
