

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES - DUTIES ON IMPORTS OF GRAINS

Communication from the United States

The following communication, dated 20 December 1996, from the Permanent Mission of the United States to the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission and to the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated at the request of the United States.

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I am writing to correct a misimpression which may have been conveyed to delegations by a communication from the European Communities circulated as document WT/DS13/3, dated 2 December 1996 but circulated on 4 December 1996.

The communication in question stated that the dispute which was the object of a panel request by the United States on "European Communities - Duties on Imports of Grains" (WT/DS13/2) had been settled through an exchange of letters between the United States and the Communities. The statement was incorrect. The exchange of letters referred to provided a number of undertakings on the part of the Communities, to be carried out by the EC Commission. It also stated that the United States would withdraw its 1995 panel request, and would not reintroduce that request "provided that there is effective implementation of the provisions of this Agreement".

The United States reintroduced its request by a communication of 21 November 1996 to the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission and the Dispute Settlement Body, which was circulated as document WT/DS13/2/Add.1. This action was taken because almost one year after the initialling of the agreement in question and five months after completion of signature formalities, the Communities had not yet implemented the commitments in that agreement. Recent discussions with the Communities persuaded my authorities to request that this item be withdrawn from the agenda of the 3 December meeting of the DSB. However, the United States reserves the right to reintroduce the request in the event that the Communities continue to fail to implement those commitments.