

ARGENTINA – MEASURES AFFECTING THE IMPORTATION OF GOODS

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from the European Union

The following communication, dated 30 August 2012, from the delegation of the European Union to the delegation of Argentina, the delegation of the United States and to the Chairperson of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

Pursuant to Article 4.11 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes* (DSU), the European Union hereby notifies the Government of the United States, the Government of Argentina, and the Dispute Settlement Body that, in the light of the substantial trade interest of the European Union, it desires to be joined in the consultations requested by the United States in a communication circulated to WTO Members on 23 August 2012 (WT/DS444/1; G/L/995; G/LIC/D/41; G/TRIMS/D/31; G/SG/D43/1), entitled *Argentina – Measures Affecting the Importation of Goods*.

The consultations will address a large array of trade-restrictive measures imposed by Argentina, which appear to be inconsistent with its WTO obligations. In particular, the measures at issue consist of a requirement to submit a sworn declaration (*Declaración Jurada Anticipada de Importación*), as well as 17 non-automatic import licensing regimes, for which the approval criteria is unclear and often lead to arbitrary import restrictions. In addition, these consultations relate to certain requirements that make the importation of goods into Argentina conditional upon: (i) an agreement or self-commitment to carrying out exports of various products; (ii) limiting the quantity of imports; (iii) increasing the local content of domestically-manufactured products; or (iv) restricting monetary transfers to foreign suppliers. The European Union has a substantial trade interest in this dispute in the light of the economic impact that the measures complained of inflict on European producers and exporters.

The European Union looks forward to being informed of the date and venue of the consultations.
