

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES – PROTECTION OF TRADEMARKS  
AND GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL  
PRODUCTS AND FOODSTUFFS**

Request to Join Consultations

*Communication from Australia*

The following communication, dated 17 April 2003, from the Permanent Mission of Australia to the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission, the Permanent Mission of the United States and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

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I refer to the "Request for Consultations by the United States" regarding the protection of trademarks and geographical indications for agricultural products and foodstuffs in the European Communities, made on 4 April 2003 pursuant to Article 4 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes* (DSU), Article 64 of the *Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights* and Article XXII of the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994*, which was circulated to Members on 10 April 2003 (WT/DS174/1/Add.1, IP/D/19/Add.1 and G/L/619 refer).

Australia is a significant producer and exporter of agricultural products and foodstuffs and, as such, has a substantial trade interest in the consultations requested by the United States.

Due to our substantial trade interest in the above-mentioned consultations, the Government of Australia hereby notifies, pursuant to paragraph 11 of Article 4 of the DSU, its desire to be joined in the consultations.

I would be grateful for your early positive response.

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