

## EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES - DUTIES ON IMPORTS OF RICE

### Request for Consultations by Thailand

The following communication, dated 3 October 1995, from the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission, is circulated at the request of the Permanent Mission of Thailand in accordance with Article 4:4 of the DSU.

Upon instructions from my authorities, I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand would like to request consultations with the Commission of the European Communities.

The Government of the Kingdom of Thailand requests consultations with the Commission of the European Communities pursuant to Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU), Article XXIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, and Article 19 of the Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 regarding certain regulations of the European Communities concerning import duties on rice. These regulations include, but not limited to, Council Regulation (ECC) No. 1418/76 of 21 June 1976 and Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1573/95 of 30 June 1995.

Council Regulation (ECC) No. 1418/76 and Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1573/95 provide for the method of calculation of duties to be imposed on imports of rice which are equal to the intervention buying-in price valid for those products on importation, increased by a certain percentage according to whether it is husked or milled rice, indica rice or japonica rice, and minus the import price. In addition, these cited Council Regulations give special treatment to the basmati rice originating from India and Pakistan.

Accordingly, the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand is of the view that Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1418/76 and Commission (EC) 1573/95 are in contravention of the provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 and the Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 to which the European Union has obligations to conform, and thereby nullify and impair the benefits of Thailand under these Agreements. The provisions of these Agreements of which the cited Council Regulations are in contravention include, but are not limited to the following:

1. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, Articles I, II and VII; and
2. The Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, Articles 1 through 7 and Annex 1.

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The Government of the Kingdom of Thailand requests consultations with the Commission of the European Communities on the above-mentioned matters with a view to reaching a mutually satisfactory result. The Government of the Kingdom of Thailand looks forward to receiving the Commission's reply to this request and to fixing a mutually convenient venue and date for consultations.