

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC – FOREIGN EXCHANGE FEE AFFECTING  
IMPORTS FROM COSTA RICA**

Request for Consultations by Costa Rica

The following communication, dated 12 September 2005, from the delegation of Costa Rica to the delegation of the Dominican Republic and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.4 of the DSU.

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Costa Rica hereby requests consultations with the Dominican Republic pursuant to Article 4 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes* (DSU), and Article XXII:1 of the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994* (GATT 1994) with respect to the following issue:

- Collection by the Dominican Republic of a foreign exchange fee of 13 per cent calculated on the exchange rate for foreign currency sales applied to imports, including imports from Costa Rica, pursuant to the decisions of the Monetary Board of the Central Bank of the Dominican Republic dated 24 January 1991, 20 August 2002, 22 October 2003 and 23 December 2004, and any subsequent amendments thereto or related decisions. Costa Rica considers the said foreign exchange fee to be a charge imposed on or in connection with importation within the meaning of Article II.1(b) of the GATT as regards "other duties and charges", and hence to be inconsistent with that provision, among others.

I look forward to receiving your reply to this request and to setting a mutually convenient date for the consultations.

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