

**CHINA – MEASURES AFFECTING THE PROTECTION AND
ENFORCEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from the European Communities

The following communication, dated 25 April 2007, from the delegation of the European Communities to the delegation of China, the delegation of the United States and to the Chairman 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*, the European Communities hereby notifies the Governments of the People's Republic of China, of the United States and the Dispute Settlement Body that, in the light of the substantial trade interest of the European Communities, it desires to be joined in the consultations requested by the United States in a communication circulated to WTO Members on 16 April 2007 (WT/DS362/1, IP/D/26, G/L/819) entitled "*China – Measures Affecting the Protection and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights*".

An efficient protection of Intellectual Property rights is an essential element in the protection of the interests of EC companies. Counterfeiting and piracy activity leads to a systematic erosion of the value added created by European R&D investments and affects the development of a stable and mutually beneficial trade relation. China is the fourth largest destination of EC exports. Therefore, the European Communities has a substantial trade interest in the present dispute and in the correct application of the *Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights*.
