

**INDIA – MEASURES AFFECTING THE IMPORTATION AND SALE
OF WINES AND SPIRITS FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from the United States

The following communication, dated 1 December 2006, from the delegation of the United States to the delegation of India, the delegation of the European Communities and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

This concerns the request for consultations by the European Communities on *India – Measures Affecting the Importation and Sale of Wines and Spirits from the European Communities*, circulated on 23 November 2006 (WT/DS352/1). My authorities have instructed me to notify the consulting Members and the Dispute Settlement Body of the desire of the United States to be joined in these consultations, pursuant to Article 4.11 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes*.

The United States has a substantial trade interest in these consultations. The United States is a leading producer and exporter of wine and spirits worldwide. Over the period 2000-2005, US exports of wine (HS headings 2204, 2205, and 2206) and spirits (HS heading 2208) worldwide averaged approximately \$630 million and \$633 million, respectively, making the United States the world's 6th largest exporter of wine and 3rd largest exporter of spirits. From 2000 to 2005, even with India's measures in place, US exports of wine and spirits to India grew by over 350 per cent and 200 per cent, respectively.
