

Original: Spanish

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES - REGIME FOR THE IMPORTATION,  
SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF BANANAS

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from Colombia

The following communication, dated 31 October 1997, from the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission, the Permanent Mission of Panama and to the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4:11 of the DSU.

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The Government of Colombia has taken note of the request for consultations by the Republic of Panama concerning the European Communities' regime for the importation, sale and distribution of bananas as established through Regulation 404/93 and the legislation implementing, supplementing or amending that regime, including the Framework Agreement on Bananas.<sup>1</sup>

Colombia has a substantial trade interest in this matter, as a banana-producing country whose exports to the European Union amount to 21 per cent of total non-preferential imports.

In view of this substantial trade interest, and taking into account the provisions of Article 4:11 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes, the Government of Colombia requests to be joined in the consultations under Article XXII of the GATT 1994 sought by the Republic of Panama.

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<sup>1</sup>Document WT/DS105/1 of 29 October 1997.