

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

Recourse to Article 21.5 of the DSU by Ecuador

Request to Join Consultations

*Communication from the United States*

The following communication, dated 11 December 2006, from the delegation of the United States to the delegation of the European Communities, the delegation of Ecuador and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

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This concerns the request for consultations by the Government of Ecuador on *European Communities – Regime for the Importation, Sale, and Distribution of Bananas: Recourse to Article 21.5 of the DSU by Ecuador*, circulated on 29 November 2006 (WT/DS27/65/Rev.1). My authorities have instructed me to notify the consulting Members and the Dispute Settlement Body ("DSB") 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 was a complaining party in the dispute resulting in the DSB recommendations and rulings that are at issue in these consultations.

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