

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

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

### Communication from Saint Lucia

The following communication, dated 3 October 1995, from the Permanent Representation of Saint Lucia to the Office of the United States Trade Representative, the Permanent Missions of Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico and the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission was received by the Chairman of the DSB and is circulated at the request of the Permanent Representation of Saint Lucia.

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The Government of Saint Lucia wishes to convey to you its request to be joined in the consultations on the European Communities' regime for the importation, sale and distribution of bananas pursuant to Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes, Article XXIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, Article VI of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures and Article XXIII of the General Agreement on Trade and Services regarding the EC regime for the importation, sale and distribution of bananas established by Regulation 404/93 (OJ L47 of 25th February 1993) and the subsequent EC legislation, regulations and administrative measures which implement, supplement and amend that regime.

Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes specifically provides that during consultations Members should give special attention to the particular problems and interests of developing-country Members.

The share of banana exports in the agricultural exports of Saint Lucia in 1993 amounted to 90 per cent. A fall in the returns on bananas would have far reaching and negative consequences for the economy of Saint Lucia. Any modifications to the EC banana regime which significantly reduce the provisions in favour of Saint Lucia would jeopardise our access to our sole export market and give rise to a disastrous situation and economic collapse would be inevitable. Saint Lucia, therefore, has a substantial trade interest in the above-mentioned consultations.

I look forward to receiving your early reply to this request and to fixing a mutually convenient arrangement for the holding of joint consultations on this matter, which is of such fundamental importance to my country.