

**VENEZUELA – IMPORT LICENSING MEASURES ON
CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS**

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from Argentina

The following communication, dated 22 November 2002, from the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the Permanent Mission of Venezuela, the Permanent Mission of the United States and the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

I hereby refer to the request for consultations by the United States with respect to Venezuelan import licensing systems and practices regarding certain agricultural products, contained in document WT/DS275/1, G/L/587, G/LIC/D/35, G/AG/GEN/55, G/TRIMS/D/19 dated 12 November 2002.

In view of its substantial trade interest as a producer/exporter of various agricultural products, Argentina requests to be joined in the aforementioned consultations, pursuant to the procedures established in Article 4.11 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU). Argentina exports to Venezuela black beans (*caraota*), white beans and other varieties, for which Venezuela is its second largest export market, dairy products and vegetable oils (crude and refined).

The above request is based on the fact that bean products from Argentina have been affected by a number of trade restrictions (such as delays in granting phytosanitary import permits, failure to issue the non-domestic production certificate, and so forth).

Moreover, Argentina is concerned about practices that result in failure to process import licensing applications in a timely fashion for all the above-mentioned products, as well as other practices that restrict access to the Venezuelan market for Argentine agricultural exports, including failure to publish the rules governing import licensing procedures.
