

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND ITS MEMBER STATES – TARIFF TREATMENT
OF CERTAIN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS**

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from Chinese Taipei

The following communication, dated 11 June 2008, from the delegation of Chinese Taipei to the delegation of the European Communities, the delegation of Japan and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

With reference to the request by Japan for consultations with the European Communities ("EC") concerning *European Communities and Its Member States – Tariff Treatment of Certain Information Technology Products* (WT/DS376/1, circulated on 2 June 2008), I hereby wish to convey the request of the Government of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu, pursuant to Article 4.11 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes* ("DSU"), to be joined in these consultations.

The Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu has both substantial trade and systematic interests in these consultations. As stated in Japan's request for consultations, the EC and its member States, in their Schedules of Concessions to the GATT 1994, committed to provide duty-free treatment for LCD monitors, multifunctional printers, and set-top boxes with a communication function. While the EC and its member States committed to grant tariff concessions under the Information Technology Agreement ("ITA"), certain EC measures have resulted in the imposition of duties on these products. As one of the main suppliers of the products at issue, both globally and to the EC market, trade in these products by the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu has thus been seriously affected.

The Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu looks forward to receiving confirmation of receipt and acceptance of this request and would appreciate being informed of the date and venue of these consultations.
