

**AUSTRALIA – CERTAIN MEASURES CONCERNING TRADEMARKS,
GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS AND OTHER PLAIN PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS
APPLICABLE TO TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND PACKAGING**

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from the European Union

The following communication, dated 27 July 2012, from the delegation of the European Union to the delegation of Australia, the delegation of Dominican Republic and to the Chairperson of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

This letter relates to a communication circulated to WTO Members on 23 July 2012 (WT/DS441/1, G/L/992, IP/D/32, G/TBT/D/41) entitled *Australia – Certain Measures concerning Trademarks, Geographical Indications and other Plain Packaging Requirements Applicable to Tobacco Products and Packaging*, by which the Dominican Republic requests to hold consultations with Australia.

The consultations will touch upon issues concerning the balance between health and other interests in domestic measures, under the prism of three WTO agreements: the TRIPS Agreement, the TBT Agreement, and the GATT 1994. The European Union attaches great importance to the pursuit of policies aimed at tackling the negative health effects of tobacco consumption and it has adopted measures in that regard. At the same time, the European Union is the world's leading importer of raw tobacco, it imports significant volumes of manufactured tobacco, and it is the largest exporter of cigars and cigarettes.

In view of the foregoing, and pursuant to Article 4.11 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes*, the European Union hereby notifies the Governments of Australia, of the Dominican Republic and the Dispute Settlement Body that, in the light of the substantial trade interest of the European Union, it desires to be joined in the consultations requested by the Dominican Republic.
