

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES - PATENT PROTECTION FOR PHARMACEUTICAL
AND AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL PRODUCTS**

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from Australia

The following communication, dated 17 December 1998, from the Permanent Mission of Australia to the Permanent Mission of Canada, the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission and the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

Pursuant to paragraph 11 of Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU), the Australian Government hereby notifies that, in light of the substantial trade interest of Australia, it desires to be joined in the consultations under Article 64 of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) and Article XXII of GATT 1994 requested by the Government of Canada in a communication circulated to WTO members on 7 December 1998 (WT/DS153/1, IP/D/15, G/L/283), entitled "European Communities Patent Protection for Pharmaceutical and Agricultural Chemical Products".

Australia has a substantial trade interest in the protection of pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical inventions referred to in the request of the Government of Canada. In 1997, Australia exported over \$A3.2 billion of chemicals and related products, including \$A1.1 billion of pharmaceutical goods and medicaments. These exports included \$A344 million of products exported to the EU and over \$A29 million of products exported to Canada.
