

ROMANIA - IMPORT PROHIBITION ON WHEAT AND WHEAT FLOUR

Request for Consultations by Hungary

The following communication, dated 18 October 2001, from the Permanent Mission of Hungary to the Permanent Mission of Romania and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.4 of the DSU.

Upon instruction of my authorities and pursuant to:

- Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU), and
- Article XXII:1 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 (GATT 1994),

I hereby wish to convey the request of the Government of Hungary for consultations with Romania, with respect to the Joint Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Industry and Forestry No. 119069 (16.07.2001), Ministry of Family and Health No. 495 (18.07.2001) and the National Consumer Protection Authority No. 1/3687 (19.07.2001) prohibiting the import of wheat and wheat flour which does not meet certain quality requirements.

Hungary considers that the above mentioned measure has been imposed in a manner inconsistent with the obligations of Romania under Article XI:1 of the GATT 1994. Moreover, domestically produced products are not subject to the same quality requirements, therefore the introduction of the above-mentioned quality requirements would appear to be in breach of Article III:4 of the GATT 1994.

The Government of Hungary is looking forward to receiving a prompt reply from the Government of Romania to this request as well as the establishment of a mutually convenient date and place for the initiation of consultations.
