

**CHINA - MEASURES AFFECTING TRADING RIGHTS AND
DISTRIBUTION SERVICES FOR CERTAIN PUBLICATIONS
AND AUDIOVISUAL ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTS**

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from the European Communities

The following communication, dated 20 July 2007, from the delegation of the European Communities to the delegation of China, the delegation of the United States and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

Pursuant to Article 4.11 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes*, the European Communities hereby notifies the Governments of the People's Republic of China ("China"), of the United States and the Dispute Settlement Body that, in the light of the substantial trade interest of the European Communities, it desires to be joined in the supplemental consultations requested by the United States in a communication circulated to WTO Members on 16 July 2007 (WT/DS363/1/Add.1, G/L/820/Add.1, S/L/287/Add.1) entitled "*China – Measures Affecting Trading Rights and Distribution Services for certain Publications and Audiovisual Entertainment Products*".

The European Communities requests to be joined in the consultations as a third party given the systemic questions involved and the substantive business interests the EC has in the distribution sector in China. The European Communities thus has a substantial trade interest in the present dispute, in the implementation of China's commitments under its protocol of accession to the WTO and in the correct application of the *General Agreement on Trade in Services* and the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade*.
