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CANADA – MEASURES GOVERNING THE SALE OF WINE IN GROCERY STORES

REQUEST TO JOIN CONSULTATIONS

Communication from the European Union

The following communication, dated 1 February 2017, from the delegation of the European Union to the delegation of the United States, the delegation of Canada and to the Chairperson 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 (DSU), the European Union (the EU) hereby notifies the Government of the United States, the Government of Canada, and the Dispute Settlement Body that, in the light of its substantial trade interest, it desires to be joined in the consultations requested by the United States in a communication circulated to WTO Members on 23 January 2017 (WT/DS520/1), entitled "Canada- Measures governing the sale of wine in grocery stores".

The EU notes that the request for consultations relates to measures maintained by the Canadian province of British Columbia governing the sale of wine in grocery stores. The EU is the first wine importer into the Canadian market. In the recent years, more than fifty per cent of Canadian wine imports originated in the EU. The measures maintained by the Canadian province of British Columbia regarding the sale of wine in grocery stores may have a substantial impact on the sale and therefore on the importation of EU wine into British Columbia. The EU has, therefore, a substantial trade interest in these consultations.
