

JAPAN - MEASURES CONCERNING SOUND RECORDINGS

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from the United States

The following communication, dated 6 June 1996, from the Permanent Mission of the United States to the Permanent Mission of Japan, the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission and to 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 Dispute ("DSU"), the United States Government hereby notifies that, in light of the substantial trade interest of the United States, it desires to be joined in the consultations under Article 64.1 of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights in conjunction with paragraph 1 of Article XXII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 requested by the European Community and its Member States in a communication circulated to WTO Members on 4 June 1996 (WT/DS42/1) entitled "Japan - Measures Concerning Sound Recordings".

The United States has a substantial trade interest with regard to the sale and distribution in Japan of sound recordings, in particular, those produced during the period 1 January 1946 to 1 January 1971. The United States recording industry estimates the losses due to foregone royalties to United States performers and producers of sound recordings in the Japanese market in the context of sound recordings produced during the period 1946 to 1971 could exceed \$500 million. The Japanese measures at issue have formed the basis of separate consultations requested by the United States Government in a communication circulated to WTO Members on 14 February 1996 (WT/DS28/1).