

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES – REGIME FOR THE IMPORTATION,
SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF BANANAS**

Recourse to Article 21.5 of the DSU by Ecuador

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from Belize

The following communication, dated 29 November 2006, from the delegation of Belize to the delegation of the European Communities, the delegation of Ecuador and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

By communication circulated under WTO document WT/DS27/65/Rev.1 of 29 November 2006, Member States were informed that the Government of Ecuador advised that its original correspondence of 16 November 2006 was superseded by its communication of 28 November 2006. By its communication of 28 November, Ecuador is requesting to engage in consultations under Article XXII of the GATT with the European Communities (EC), which opens the way to participation by third parties.

The content of Ecuador's request for consultations indicates that it essentially contests the preferential regime from which ACP banana exporting States benefit.

As an ACP banana exporting country with substantial and specific trade interests in bananas including a heavy reliance on the EC as its sole market for the product, the Government of Belize hereby requests under Article 4.11 of the DSU to be joined as a third party in the consultations requested by Ecuador with the EC. We look forward to your support in allowing us to participate fully in these consultations.

Belize reserves its rights in any future proceedings that may arise under the DSU or to any rights under the WTO.
