

**DEFINITIVE SAFEGUARD MEASURES IMPOSED BY THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ON IMPORTS OF CERTAIN STEEL PRODUCTS**

Request for Consultations under Article 12.3
of the Agreement on Safeguards

JAPAN

The Secretariat has received the following communication, dated 16 September 2002, from the Permanent Mission of Japan to the Permanent Mission of the European Communities.

With reference to the notification under Article 12.1(b) and 12.1(c) of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards on proposed definitive safeguard measures by the European Communities (EC), upon instructions from my authorities, I hereby wish to convey the request of the Government of Japan for consultations with the EC pursuant to Article 12.3 of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards, as a Member having a substantial interest as an exporter of the products concerned.

The request does not prejudice the position of the Government of Japan about whether the period between the announcement and the application of the proposed measures provides sufficient amount of time for a meaningful exchange, as required under Article 12.3 of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards.

The Government of Japan reserves its right under the WTO Agreement.

I look forward to receiving your reply to this request and to fixing a mutually acceptable date and place for the consultations.
