

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

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from Colombia

The following communication, dated 9 September 1998, from the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission is circulated pursuant to the procedure provided for under Article 21.5 of the DSU.

The Government of Colombia takes note of the request of Ecuador, the United States, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico for consultations concerning the amendments to Regulation 404/93 adopted by the Council of Agriculture Ministers on 26 June 1998 and published on 28 July 1998 in the EC Official Journal (EC 1637/98).

As a major banana producer whose exports to the European Union during the period 1995 to 1997 exceeded 23 per cent of total non-preferential imports, Colombia has a substantial trade interest in this matter.

In view of this substantial trade interest and bearing in mind that Article 21 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU) contains no special provisions concerning the participation of third parties, the Government of Colombia, pursuant to Article XXII of the GATT and paragraph 4.11 of the DSU, requests to be joined in the above-mentioned consultation procedures.
