

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

Request by Mexico Regarding Consultations by Ecuador

The following communication, dated 20 November 1998, from the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission, the Permanent Mission of Ecuador and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated pursuant to the procedure provided for under Article 21.5 of the DSU.

I refer to the communication of 13 November 1998 from the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the Representation of the European Communities requesting the reactivation of the consultations begun on 17 September 1998. Since Mexico participated in these consultations, it hereby also requests that they be reactivated. In this connection, Mexico also asks that the meeting scheduled for the resumption of the consultations should be the same as that scheduled to take place between the European Communities and Ecuador.

It should be noted that this is not a new procedure, and that the request is made without prejudice to our position according to which Article 21.5 of the DSU does not require the holding of consultations as a condition for convening the panel to examine the conformity of the new Community regime for the importation of bananas with the recommendations of the Panel and Appellate Body that examined the Community's regime for the importation of bananas contained in Regulation (EEC) No. 404/93, and with the relevant WTO Agreements.
