

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES – PROTECTION OF TRADEMARKS
AND GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTS AND FOODSTUFFS**

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from the Slovak Republic

The following communication, dated 2 May 2003, from the Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission, the Permanent Mission of Australia and to the Chairman of 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 Disputes (DSU), the Government of the Slovak Republic hereby notifies the consulting parties and the Dispute Settlement Body that the Slovak Republic desires to be joined in the consultations requested by the United States pursuant to Article 4 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes* (DSU), Article 64 of the *Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights* (TRIPS Agreement) and Article XXII of the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994* (GATT 1994), regarding the protection of trademarks and geographical indications for agricultural products and foodstuffs in the European Communities (EC), as well as the consultations requested by Australia pursuant to Article 4 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes* (DSU), Article XXII of the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994* (GATT 1994), Article 64 of the *Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights* (TRIPS Agreement) and Article 14 of the *Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade* (TBT Agreement) relating to the protection of trademarks and to the registration and protection of geographical indications for foodstuffs and agricultural products in the EC.

The United States' request for consultations was circulated on 10 April 2003 as WT/DS174/1/Add.1. The Australian request for consultations was circulated on 23 April 2003 as WT/DS290/1.

The Slovak Republic has a substantial trade and systemic interest in the protection of trademarks and geographical indications for agricultural products and foodstuffs which is the subject of the United States' and Australia's requests for consultations and hence desires to be joined in these consultations. We look forward to receiving confirmation of receipt and acceptance of this request to join the consultations and advice regarding the timing and venue for the consultations.
