

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES - PATENT PROTECTION FOR PHARMACEUTICAL
AND AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL PRODUCTS**

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from the United States

The following communication, dated 17 December 1998, from the Permanent Mission of the United States to the Permanent Mission of Canada, the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission 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 United States Government hereby notifies the Dispute Settlement Body that, in light of the substantial trade interest of the United States, it desires to be joined in the consultations under Article 64 of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (to the extent that it incorporates by reference Article XXII of GATT 1994) requested by the Government of Canada in a communication circulated to WTO Members on 7 December 1998 (WT/DS153/1), entitled "European Communities - Patent Protection for Pharmaceutical and Agricultural Chemical Products".

The United States has a substantial trade interest in the market affected by the European Communities' patent regime referenced in Canada's request. In 1997, the United States exported to the European Communities \$3,044 million U.S. dollars in pharmaceutical products, and imported from the European Communities \$4,632 million U.S. dollars of such products.
