

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

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from Hungary

The following communication, dated 30 April 2003, from the Permanent Mission of Hungary 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.

We refer to the communication entitled "Request for Consultations by Australia" regarding the protection of trademarks and geographical indications for agricultural products and foodstuffs in the European Communities, made on 17 April 2003 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 14 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement), which was circulated to Members on 23 April 2003 (WT/DS290/1, G/L/623, IP/D/25, G/TBT/D/27 refer).

Pursuant to paragraph 11 of Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU), the Government of Hungary hereby notifies the consulting parties and the Dispute Settlement Body that, in the light of Hungary's substantial trade interests, Hungary desires to be joined in the consultations.

Hungary has a substantial trade interest in regularly exporting Hungarian wines, spirits and other agricultural products and foodstuffs into the EU market. Hungary is concerned that any change in the EU regulation may limit the level of protection of these products subject to GI protection.

We look forward to receiving your reply to this request.
