

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

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from Argentina

The following communication, dated 22 April 2003, from the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission, the Permanent Mission of the United States and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

With reference to the request for consultations by the United States with the European Communities concerning the protection of trademarks and geographical indications for agricultural products and foodstuffs, circulated in document WT/DS174/Add.1, IP/D/19/Add.1, G/L619 on 10 April 2003, Argentina hereby requests to be joined in the said consultations pursuant to Article 4.11 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU).

This request is made in view of Argentina's substantial interest in matters concerning the implementation of legislation governing the protection of trademarks and geographical indications for agricultural products and foodstuffs. EC Regulation 2081/92, as amended, and its related implementing and enforcement measures (the "EC Regulation"), appear to Argentina to be inconsistent with Articles I and III of the GATT 1994 and with the provisions of the TRIPS Agreement relating to the protection of geographical indications and trademarks.
