

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES – CUSTOMS CLASSIFICATION OF
FROZEN BONELESS CHICKEN CUTS**

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from the United States

The following communication, dated 10 April 2003, from the Permanent Mission of the United States to the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission, the Permanent Mission of Thailand and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

I am writing concerning the request for consultations by Thailand on *European Communities – Customs Classification of Frozen Boneless Chicken Cuts*, circulated on 31 March 2003 (WT/DS286/1). My authorities have instructed me to notify the consulting Members and the Dispute Settlement Body of the desire of the United States to be joined in these consultations, pursuant to Article 4.11 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes*. The United States has a substantial trade interest in this matter. Prior to 1997, the European Union ("EU") was an important export market for US poultry, particularly poultry parts. For example, US exports of poultry to the EU exceeded \$50 million in 1996. Since then, a trade issue has arisen that has curtailed US exports to the EU. However, when this issue is resolved, we anticipate that the EU once again will be an important export market for US poultry.

This conclusion is supported by the fact that the United States is a leading producer and exporter of poultry world-wide. Over the period 1996-2001, US exports of poultry (HS0207) averaged nearly \$2 billion world-wide; in many years during that period US global exports exceeded \$2 billion (e.g., in 2001). Furthermore, a significant portion of US global exports are frozen poultry parts (HS020714). During the 1996-2001 period, about 75% of total US exports were these poultry parts.
