

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

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EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES - REGIME FOR THE IMPORTATION, SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF BANANAS

Communication from Nicaragua

The following communication, dated 21 February 1996, from the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission and to the Chairman of the DSB, is circulated at the request of the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua.

The Government of Nicaragua takes note of the request for consultations made by Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and the United States in connection with the European Communities' regime for the importation, sale and distribution of bananas, established in Regulation 404/93 and the legislation implementing, supplementing and amending it, which includes the Framework Agreement on Bananas (Commission Regulation (EC) No. 3290/94, OJ L 349).

The banana industry is a major source of foreign exchange and provides employment for a significant sector of the Nicaraguan population. For this reason, my Government has a substantial trade interest in the consultations in question, inasmuch as the European Union has, over the past decade, constituted the only market for Nicaraguan banana exports. Accordingly, any change that does not take due account of Nicaragua's interests could have serious effects on its economy.

Consequent upon this substantial trade interest and pursuant to the terms of Article 6 of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures, Article 4 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding and other rules applicable in this matter, the Government of Nicaragua wishes to be joined in this consultation procedure.