

JAPAN - MEASURES CONCERNING SOUND RECORDINGS

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from the European Communities

The following communication, dated 22 February 1996, from the Permanent Delegation of the European Commission to the Permanent Missions of the United States and Japan, and to the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

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Pursuant to the procedures laid down in Article 4.11 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU), the European Communities and their Member States wish to be joined in the consultations under Article XXII:1 of GATT 1994 requested by the United States in a communication circulated to WTO Members on 14 February 1996 (WT/DS28/1) regarding the protection in Japan of sound recordings originating in other WTO Members or created by nationals of other WTO Members.

The European Communities and their Members States have a substantial trade interest in terms of, *inter alia*, the relevant parts of the repertoire of the popular music of The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Rod Stewart, The Who, Cliff Richard, Eric Clapton and James Last, as well as the classical music repertoire of Karl Böhm, Ferenc Fricsay, Karl Richter, Herbert von Karajan, Leonard Bernstein, Sir Georg Solti and the Vienna and Berlin Philharmonic Orchestras. Present European industry calculations, from their knowledge and observation of the Japanese market, are of unauthorized copies of European recordings falling into the period in question exceeding ECU 100 million in value.