

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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EEC - IMPORT REGIME FOR BANANAS

Request for Consultations under Article XXII:1 by Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Venezuela

The following communication, dated 28 January 1993, sent jointly by the Permanent Missions of Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Venezuela in Geneva to the Permanent Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities, is circulated in accordance with paragraph C.4 of the CONTRACTING PARTIES' 1989 Decision on Improvements to the GATT Dispute Settlement Rules and Procedures (BISD 36S/61).

The Governments of Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Venezuela request the European Community to hold consultations pursuant to Article XXII:1 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, concerning the Decision of 17 December 1992 of the Council of Ministers of Agriculture of the Community on the common organization of the market in bananas.

We consider that the Decision is inconsistent with the Community's obligations under the General Agreement; inter alia, those set out in Articles I, II, XI, XIII and XXIV. In addition, it does not comply with Part IV of the General Agreement. It further aggravates the conditions of access for our banana exports, which have been the subject of consultations between the European Community and our Governments pursuant to our request of 12 June 1992 (Document DS32/1 of 24 June 1992).

In accordance with paragraph C.3 of the Decision of 12 April 1989 on Improvements to the GATT Dispute Settlement Rules and Procedures, the Council will be notified immediately of this request for consultations.

We request the European Community that the consultations be held as rapidly as possible.