

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

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UNITED STATES - STANDARDS FOR REFORMULATED AND
CONVENTIONAL GASOLINE

Request for Consultations under Article XXII:1 by Venezuela

The following communication, dated 17 January 1994, sent by the Permanent Mission of Venezuela to the GATT Secretariat, is circulated in accordance with paragraph C.3 of the CONTRACTING PARTIES' 1989 Decision on Improvements to the GATT Dispute Settlement Rules and Procedures (BISD 36S/62).

I have the pleasure to inform you that, in accordance with paragraph C.3 of the CONTRACTING PARTIES' Decision of 12 April 1989 on Improvements to the GATT Dispute Settlement Rules and Procedures, the Government of Venezuela requested the Government of the United States of America, by letter dated 14 January 1994, to conduct consultations under Article XXII:1 of the General Agreement.

This request is related to the final decision of the Environmental Protection Agency of 15 December 1993 with respect to the "Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives - Standards for Reformulated and Conventional Gasoline", to be codified at 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 80.

The Government of Venezuela considers that this rule infringes Venezuela's rights and fails to comply with the United States' obligations under the General Agreement, and also that it will adversely affect Venezuelan gasoline exports to the United States, which amounted to US\$478 million in 1993.

A copy of the request for consultations addressed to Ambassador Michael Kantor, United States Trade Representative, by Dr. Miguel Rodríguez Mendoza, Minister of State, President of the Institute of Foreign Trade of Venezuela, is attached hereto.

Please would you have this communication circulated to the GATT contracting parties for their information.

Republic of Venezuela
Minister of State
Institute of Foreign Trade

Ref: PRE-110/0006

Caracas, 14 January 1994

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Government of the Republic of Venezuela is hereby requesting consultations with the Government of the United States of America under Article XXII:1 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

This request is related to the final decision of the Environmental Protection Agency with respect to Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives - Standards for Reformulated and Conventional Gasoline to be codified at 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 80, a rule that infringes upon Venezuela's rights and violates United States obligations under the General Agreement.

The Environmental Protection Agency's rule will negatively affect the Venezuelan economy and specifically will impact Venezuelan gasoline exports to the United States, which in 1993 amounted to US\$478 million.

The Government of Venezuela considers that the Environmental Protection Agency's rule discriminates against imported gasoline in the United States and violates obligations of the United States under the relevant provisions of the General Agreement, and therefore requests that consultations be held at the earliest possible date.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Miguel Rodríguez Mendoza
Minister of State

H.E. Ambassador Michael Kantor
United States Trade Representative
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 Seventeenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20506