

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY -
OPERATION OF ITS BEEF AND VEAL RÉGIME
REQUEST BY AUSTRALIA FOR CONSULTATIONS UNDER
ARTICLE XXIII:1

The following communication has been received from the Special Trade Representative of Australia, with the request that it be circulated to contracting parties.

The Australian Government wishes to inform the contracting parties that it is seeking consultations with the European Communities under the provisions of Article XXIII:1 of the General Agreement with respect to the operation of the Community's beef and veal régime.

The Australian Government advised the Commission, in October this year, of its intention to seek recourse to the consultation, conciliation and dispute settlement provisions of the General Agreement in respect to this matter. This informal request will be followed up, in the near future, with a written request to the Commission formally seeking consultations, and proposing that such consultations be commenced at the earliest possible date. Australia's formal request will be accompanied by a statement as envisaged in Article XXIII, paragraph 1 of the General Agreement.

Australia's request for consultations arises from a conviction that the operation of the Community's beef and veal régime has nullified or impaired benefits which would normally accrue to Australia as a result of membership of the General Agreement and has also impeded the attainment of the objectives of the Agreement as envisaged in paragraph 1(b) of Article XXIII.

The Australian Government has taken every opportunity to appraise the Community of its concerns as to the impact of the beef and veal régime on the Australian beef industry and the Australian economy in general. However, no action has been taken by the Community which deals with the problems caused to Australia by the operation of the Community's régime.

It is the wish of the Australian Government that a mutually satisfactory solution to this problem can be achieved in the context of the foreshadowed bilateral consultations. Notwithstanding this fact, the Australian Government reserves its rights to again bring this matter before the contracting parties, under the relevant provisions of the General Agreement.