

Dispute Settlement Compliance Panel  
in WT/DS27 (EC-Bananas III)  
**World Trade Organization**  
Centre William Rappard  
Rue de Lausanne 154  
CH-1211 Geneva 21  
Switzerland

*European Communities — Regime for the Importation, Sale and Distribution of Bananas:  
Recourse to Article 21.5 of the DSB by the United States (WT/DS27)*

**Request for web-casting of upcoming public hearing**

November 2, 2007

Submitted by:

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**To the Panel in**  
***European Communities — Regime for the Importation, Sale and Distribution of Bananas:***

The undersigned respectfully request that the Panel consult with the Parties in the *European Communities — Regime for the Importation, Sale and Distribution of Bananas (EC-Bananas III)* case to consider the possibility of **web-casting the upcoming panel hearing** in the legal proceedings of this WTO dispute.

We learned earlier this week that the compliance panel has agreed to open its meeting with the parties and third parties on Tuesday, 6 November 2007 and Wednesday, 7 November 2007 for observation by WTO Members and the general public at the WTO in Geneva. We commend the parties to this dispute for agreeing to open hearings and believe it is essential that this type of public involvement continue, especially for cases involving major economic stakes for developing countries and affecting the future and design of trade-relations between developed and developing country blocks.

While in the past, two disputes have been open to public observation via closed-circuit television broadcast, we believe that it is time that a broader public and all interested governments, especially from the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) regions, have access to the hearings. Since many interested citizens and government officials, especially from developing countries, are unable to spend the time and money to travel to Geneva to watch the proceedings in person, the use of the internet would greatly facilitate access to citizens and government officials around the world. This manner of proceeding would neither delay the panel process nor require additional physical space to hold public sessions for hearings.

We realize that this request comes late, but over the past three days since the notice of the open hearings was sent out, it has become clear that a number of people will not be able to attend the meeting for the reasons mentioned above but would desire to observe the hearing nevertheless. For this reason, we respectfully request a consultation by the Panel with the Parties to the *EC-Bananas III* case to consider a web-cast of the upcoming and/or future hearings.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of:

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Both ENDS, Amsterdam  
The Center for International Environmental Law, Geneva and Washington, DC  
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