

**EGYPT – MEASURES AFFECTING IMPORTS  
OF TEXTILE AND APPAREL PRODUCTS**

Request to Join Consultations

*Communication from the European Communities*

The following communication, dated 15 January 2004, from the delegation of the European Commission to the delegation of Egypt, the delegation of the United States and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

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I am writing concerning the request for consultations by the US on Egypt – Measures Affecting Imports of Textile and Apparel Products, circulated on 6 January 2004 (WT/DS305/1). My authorities have instructed me to notify the consulting Members and the Dispute Settlement Body of the desire of the European Communities to be joined in these consultations pursuant to Article 4.11 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes.

The European Communities has a substantial trade interest in the matter. The European Communities is a leading producer and exporter of articles of textile, apparel and clothing under HS Chapters 61, 62 and 63. Over the period 1996–2002, EC exports of these articles averaged nearly 16 billion euros world-wide. Furthermore, Egypt has always been an important export market for EC textile, clothing and apparel articles.

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