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**EUROPEAN UNION - CERTAIN MEASURES CONCERNING
PALM OIL AND OIL PALM CROP-BASED BIOFUELS**

REQUEST TO JOIN CONSULTATIONS

Communication from Colombia

The following communication, dated 20 December 2019, from the delegation of Colombia to the delegation of the European Union and the delegation of Indonesia, is circulated to the Dispute Settlement Body in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

This communication concerns the request for consultations by Indonesia regarding *European Union – Certain measures concerning palm oil and oil palm crop-based biofuels* (WT/DS593).

My authorities have instructed me to notify the consulting Members and the Dispute Settlement Body of the desire of Colombia to be joined in these consultations, pursuant to Article 4.11 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes.

Colombia has a substantial trade interest in these consultations, as the palm sector forms a significant part of the country's agricultural sector, accounting for almost the entire oilseed sector and 17.8% of Colombia's total cultivated land area. In 2018, 549,355 hectares were used for palm oil, yielding 1,893,116 tonnes of the product, an output of 3.47 tonnes per hectare.

Exports in 2018 amounted to USD 568.8 million, or 8% of agricultural exports within the WTO framework, an increase of 11.4% in relation to 2017. By October 2019, exports amounted to USD 389.6 million, having fallen by 24.9% in relation to the same period in 2018.

In 2018, the main destination for crude palm oil exports was the European Union, in particular the Netherlands as the main port of entry (32%), Spain (21%) and Germany (6.3%), followed by Brazil (15%), Mexico (8%), Chile (2%), the United States (2%), Ecuador and Panama (3%).

In light of the above, Colombia clearly has a substantial trade interest and respectfully requests that it be joined in these consultations.

A copy of this letter is being sent to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, with the request that it be circulated to Members.
