



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

REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS

Communication from Colombia

The following communication, dated 28 January 2021, from the delegation of Colombia to the delegations of the European Union, France and Lithuania and Malaysia, is circulated to the Dispute Settlement Body in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

My authorities have instructed me to notify the consulting Members and the Dispute Settlement Body of the desire of Colombia to be joined in the consultations under DS 600, 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 oil sector forms a significant part of the country's agricultural sector, accounting for almost the entire oilseed sector. In 2020, 573,058 hectares were used for palm oil, yielding 1,555,261 tonnes of the product, an output of 3.1 tonnes per hectare.

Exports in 2019 amounted to USD 350.2 million, or 5% of agricultural exports within the WTO framework. During the January-November period 2020, exports reached USD 388.1 million and went up 18% compared to the same period in 2019.

In 2019, the main destination for crude palm oil exports was the European Union (60%), in particular the Netherlands as the main port of entry (33%), Spain (12%) and Germany (8%), followed by México (10%), Ecuador (8%), Brazil (7%), Venezuela (5%), the United States, Chile and Panama (2%).

In light of the above, Colombia demonstrates 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.
