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RUSSIA - MEASURES CONCERNING TRAFFIC IN TRANSIT

REQUEST TO JOIN CONSULTATIONS

Communication from the European Union

The following communication, dated 29 September 2016, from the delegation of the European Union to the delegation of Russia, the delegation of Ukraine and to the Chairperson of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

Pursuant to Article 4.11 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU), the European Union (EU) hereby notifies the Government of the Russian Federation, the Government of Ukraine, and the Dispute Settlement Body that, in the light of its substantial trade interest, it desires to be joined in the consultations requested by Ukraine in a communication circulated to WTO Members on 21 September 2016 (WT/DS512/1, WT/DS512/1/Corr.1, G/L/1151, G/L/1151/Corr.1), entitled "Russia – measures concerning traffic in transit".

The EU notes that the request for consultations relates, *inter alia*, to traffic in transit from the territory of Ukraine through the territory of the Russian Federation to certain third countries. Due to its geographical location, the EU is a major user of transit routes addressed in the consultation request. In particular, the EU is a major exporter to Kazakhstan and to the Kyrgyz Republic. In 2015, the combined value of EU's exports of goods to these countries exceeded 6,4 billion euros. A significant proportion of these exports are shipped by railway or by road on territories concerned by the request for consultations. The EU has therefore a substantial trade interest in these consultations.
