

Dispute Settlement Body

23 October 2009

Statement of Australia – EC/US Beef Hormones Dispute

- Australia refers to the 13 May bilateral agreement between the European Commission and the United States relating to the EC-US/Canada Beef Hormones dispute as notified jointly to the Dispute Settlement Body by the European Communities and the United States on 25 September 2009
 - We recognise that this agreement seeks to find a way forward in the long-running beef hormones dispute.
- Australia notes that this agreement provided for the establishment of a new tariff rate quota for high quality beef which opened at the beginning of August.
- Australia welcomes the EC's assurances that the quota is non-discriminatory, is available on a most favoured nation basis (MFN) and is open to all countries.
- We note, however, that to date only the US has secured access to the quota and has commenced exporting.
- Australia looks forward to continuing to work constructively with the EC to ensure that the quota is applied in a genuinely MFN basis.