EUROPEAN COMMUNITY BANANA TRADE ASSOCIATION

May 6, 1994.

Mr. [Name]
DG VI
EC COMMISSION
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 BRUXELLES

Dear Mr. [Name],


In view of the above mentioned meeting, I would like on behalf of the 3 Co-Presidents of our association to let you know the views of the European banana trade regarding important issues which should, in the best interest of the trade, be dealt with urgently by the EC Commission.

1. Determination of reference quantities from 1995 onwards:

Although the period by which the operator may notify the competent authority about their reference quantities has been extended until June 15, it is now urgent for the trade that a clarification be given on the basis for licence allocations from 1995 onwards. We propose that the basis for future licence allocations for category A operators will be the effective utilisation of licences in previous periods. Existing uncertainties should be cleared up at the earliest stage and accordingly the trade strongly requests the Commission to include this item on the agenda of the EC Banana Management Committee meeting taking place on May 19.

2. 1994 tariff quota and quantities available during the second semester of 1994:

To date, licence allocations have reached 1,140,000 t for the first semester of this year. It is essential for operators to be able to properly plan their banana supplies. We therefore urge the Commission to clarify at the earliest the quantities which will be available under the tariff quota until the end of the year. A forecast supply balance - as required by article 16 of regulation 404/93 - clarifying this issue, is needed by the trade so that programmes can be planned in time and market supply difficulties avoided. We also ask the Commission to include this item on the agenda of the forthcoming Management Committee.

E.C.B.T.A. - Association Internationale Sans But Lucratif

B-1200 Bruxelles
3. Quality standards:

On March 8 last, we had the opportunity to give you the comments of the trade on the existing Commission working document (BANAN/TRA 94/03 and its revision 1) regarding quality standards at that time. On March 8, we also transmitted to you an ECBTA proposal for quality standards with some comments. This matter has been followed by our association in view of the draft proposal for a Commission regulation laying down quality standards. We would like to ask the Commission to give careful consideration to the trade proposal sent to you by ECBTA. This ECBTA proposal has been elaborated by the trade and reflects the reality of the banana trade. It is now unanimously supported by the European banana traders.

Finally, we take the opportunity of this letter to remind you that all our members are very concerned by the proposal on country specific quotas contained in the Uruguay Round. If this system is to be implemented, we urge the Commission to ensure that a minimum of restrictions are applied to operators and that stringent safeguard clauses are inserted to protect operators against the imposition of direct or indirect charges or taxes on dollar bananas.

We hope that our comments on the above issues, supported by all our members, will be taken into account and thoroughly discussed at the EC Banana Management Committee of May 19 for clarification at the earliest.

We thank you in advance for the interest you will take in the position of the European banana trade and look forward to hearing from you soon.

With best regards,

Sincerely Yours,

DELEGATE GENERAL