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Banana Producer Nations Request Free Market Access To European Community Nations In 1992

by Deborah Tyroler

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According to recent issue of the West German news magazine Scala, banana-producing nations have requested free access to European Economic Community nations' markets in 1992, when the EEC is scheduled for transformation into a single market. The request was submitted by Mexico, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic. Scala reported that among the EEC nations, West Germany has the highest per capita annual consumption of bananas, at 11.3 kg. A total of 99.3% of the nation's banana imports derive from South America and Central America. In 1988, West Germans consumed 762 tons of bananas, at a cost of 790 million marks. Panama ranked as the single most important source of banana imports, accounting for 30% of the total. Next in the ranking are Ecuador (172,000 tons), Costa Rica (151,000), Colombia (115,000), and Honduras (79,000). (Basic data from Notimex, 08/09/90)

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