

**UNITED STATES – FINAL DUMPING DETERMINATION  
ON SOFTWOOD LUMBER FROM CANADA**

Communication from the Chairman of the Panel

The following communication, dated 2 December 2003, addressed to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 12.9 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU).

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Article 12.8 of the DSU stipulates that the period in which a panel shall conduct its examination, from the date that the composition and terms of reference of the panel have been agreed upon until the date that the final report is issued to the parties, shall, as a general rule, not exceed six months.

Article 12.9 of the DSU states that when a panel considers that it cannot issue its report within six months, it shall inform the DSB in writing of the reasons for the delay, together with an estimate of the period within which it will issue its report.

The Panel on *United States – Final Dumping Determination on Softwood Lumber from Canada* (WT/DS264) was established by the DSB on 8 January 2003 and composed on 4 March 2003.

Further to our communication to you of 29 August 2003 under Article 12.9, the Panel now expects to issue its final report to the parties in February 2004.

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