

**MEXICO – ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES ON STEEL PIPES AND TUBES  
FROM GUATEMALA**

Communication from the Chairman of the Panel

The following communication, dated 3 January 2007, 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 Dispute Settlement Body (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 *Mexico – Anti-Dumping Duties On Steel Pipes And Tubes From Guatemala* (DS331) was established by the DSB on 17 March 2006, and the parties agreed on the composition of the Panel on 4 May 2006.

It will not be possible for the Panel to complete its work within six months of the date of composition, *inter alia* due to the nature and scope of the dispute and in accordance with the timetable established after consultation with the parties.

The Panel hopes to complete its work by the end of March 2007.

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