

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

WT/DS375/10  
WT/DS376/10  
WT/DS377/8  
23 July 2009

(09-3622)

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## EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND ITS MEMBER STATES – TARIFF TREATMENT OF CERTAIN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS

### Communication from the Chairman of the Panel

The following communication, dated 21 July 2009, addressed to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), is circulated in accordance with Article 12.9 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU).

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Article 12.8 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU) provides 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 the final report is issued to the parties to the dispute, shall, as a general rule, not exceed six months.

Article 12.9 of the DSU provides 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 *European Communities and its member States – Tariff Treatment of Certain Information Technology Products* (WT/DS375, WT/DS376, WT/DS377) was established by the DSB on 23 September 2008, and composed on 22 January 2009.

Due to the complexity of the matter and the fact that the proceedings involve three complainants, the Panel will not be able to complete its work within six months from the date of the Panel's composition. The Panel estimates that it will issue its final report to the parties in December 2009.

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