

**KOREA – MEASURES AFFECTING IMPORTS OF FRESH,  
CHILLED AND FROZEN BEEF**

Communication from the Chairman of the Panel

The following communication, dated 2 May 2000, addressed to 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 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 "*Korea – Measures Affecting Imports of Fresh, Chilled and Frozen Beef*" was established for all parties<sup>1</sup> by the DSB on 26 July 1999 and composed on 4 August 1999.

However, it will not be possible for the Panel to complete its work in six months due to the large number of complex issues raised by this dispute and the request of the parties to use always the maximum time periods prescribed in Appendix 3 of the DSU.

The Panel expects to complete its work by 15 June 2000.

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<sup>1</sup> "At its meeting on 26 May 1999 the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) established a panel in accordance with the request made by the United States in document WT/DS161/5. At its meeting of 26 July 1999, the DSB agreed to Australia's request for the establishment of a panel (WT/DS169/5) in the same matter. It also agreed, as provided for in Article 9 of the DSU in respect of multiple complainants that the Panel established on 26 May 1999 to examine the complaint by the United States will also examine Australia's complaint."