

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES – CUSTOMS CLASSIFICATION OF
FROZEN BONELESS CHICKEN CUTS**

Communication from the Chairman of the Panel

The following communication, dated 19 November 2004, addressed to the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), is circulated in accordance with Article 12.9 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU).

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 Panels on *European Communities – Customs Classification of Frozen Boneless Chicken Cuts* (WT/DS269 and WT/DS286) were established by the DSB on 7 November 2003 and 21 November 2003 respectively and a single Panel was composed on 28 June 2004. It will not, however, be possible for the Panel to complete its work in six months due to the complexity of the case and the sensitivity of the legal and factual questions that have been raised.

The Panel hopes to complete its work by the end of March 2005.
