

UNITED STATES - RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OF COTTON  
AND MAN-MADE FIBRE UNDERWEAR

Communication from the Appellate Body

The following communication, dated 9 January 1997, from the Chairman of the Appellate Body addressed to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 17.5 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes*.

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I am writing to you pursuant to Article 17.5 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes* which stipulates that, as a general rule, the Appellate Body will circulate its report no later than 60 days after the appellant has formally notified its decision to appeal. Article 17.5 states, furthermore, that when the Appellate Body considers that it cannot provide its report within 60 days, it shall inform the DSB in writing of the reasons for the delay together with an estimate of the period within which it will submit its report.

Costa Rica notified the Dispute Settlement Body of its decision to appeal on 11 November 1996, with the result that the 60-day period will expire on Friday, 10 January 1997. In light of a number of factors including (i) the rescheduling of the oral hearing at the request of the participants because of the Singapore Ministerial Meeting, (ii) logistical difficulties in bringing together the Appellate Body Members for an exchange of views on this appeal over the Christmas period and (iii) other delays occasioned by the Christmas break at the WTO, the Appellate Body is not able to circulate its report by 10 January 1997. We estimate that the report will be circulated no later than Monday, 10 February 1997.