

**UNITED STATES – MEASURES AFFECTING THE CROSS-BORDER SUPPLY
OF GAMBLING AND BETTING SERVICES**

Communication from the Chairman of the Panel

The following communication, dated 29 January 2004, addressed to the Chairman of 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 Panel on *United States – Measures Affecting the Cross-Border Supply of Gambling and Betting Services* (WT/DS285) was established by the DSB on 21 July 2003, and composed on 25 August 2003.

It will not, however, be possible for the Panel to complete its work in six months. Various factors have had an impact on the Panel's timetable: a Party's request for preliminary rulings, the intervention of the holiday season, the heavy agenda of the Panelists, as well as the complexity of the legal and factual questions which have been raised.

The Panel hopes to complete its work by the end of April 2004.
