

TURKEY – MEASURES AFFECTING THE IMPORTATION OF RICE

Communication from the Chair of the Panel

The following communication, dated 31 January 2007, addressed to the Chair 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 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 *Turkey – Measures Affecting the Importation of Rice* (WT/DS334) was established by the DSB on 17 March 2006, and composed on 31 July 2006.

Due to the nature and scope of the dispute, the Panel expects to complete its work by May 2007, as envisaged in the timetable adopted after consultations with the Parties.
