

**ARGENTINA – MEASURES AFFECTING THE EXPORT OF BOVINE HIDES
AND THE IMPORT OF FINISHED LEATHER**

Communication from the Chairman of the Panel

The following communication, dated 31 August 2000 and addressed to the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 12.9 of the 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 "Argentina – Measures Affecting the Export of Bovine Hides and the Import of Finished Leather" (WT/DS155) was established by the DSB on 26 July 1999 and parties agreed to its composition and terms of reference on 31 January 2000. Due to the complex factual nature of the case, as well as the use of the maximum time periods prescribed in Appendix 3 to the DSU, the panel will not be able to issue its report within six months.

The panel expects to issue its final report to the parties by the end of October 2000.
