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**AUSTRALIA – CERTAIN MEASURES CONCERNING TRADEMARKS,
GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS AND OTHER PLAIN PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS
APPLICABLE TO TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND PACKAGING**

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PANEL

The following communication, dated 10 October 2014, was received from the Chairperson of the Panel with the request that it be circulated to the Dispute Settlement Body.

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 accordingly and indicate the reasons, together with an estimate of the period within which it will issue its report.

The Panel in *Australia – Certain Measures Concerning Trademarks, Geographical Indications and Other Plain Packaging Requirements Applicable to Tobacco Products and Packaging* (WT/DS441) was established by the DSB on 25 April 2014 and composed on 5 May 2014.

The Panel expects to issue its final report to the parties not before the first half of 2016, in accordance with the timetable adopted by the Panel on 17 June 2014 on the basis of a draft timetable proposed by the parties.
