

25 March 2021

(21-2427)

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Original: English

**EUROPEAN UNION — SAFEGUARD MEASURES ON CERTAIN STEEL PRODUCTS**

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE PANEL

The following communication, dated 12 March 2021, was received from the Chairperson of the Panel with the request that it be circulated to the Dispute Settlement Body.

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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 *European Union – Safeguard Measures on Certain Steel Products* (DS595) was established by the DSB on 28 August 2020 and composed on 30 September 2020.

Taking account of the agreed Working Procedures and Timetable in this dispute, the Panel does not expect to issue its final report to the parties before the second half of 2021. This is due to the complexity and magnitude of the case and the need to ensure that the parties have sufficient time to prepare and present their cases, particularly given the challenges caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The report will only be available to the public once it is circulated to the Members in all three working languages of the WTO. The date of circulation depends on completion of translation and the Panel is not in a position to provide an estimated circulation date at this time.

I would be grateful if you would circulate this letter to the DSB.

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