



26 March 2014

(14-1896)

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Original: English

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES – MEASURES PROHIBITING THE IMPORTATION AND
MARKETING OF SEAL PRODUCTS**

COMMUNICATION FROM THE APPELLATE BODY

The following notification, dated 24 March 2014, from the Chair of the Appellate Body addressed to the Chair of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated to Members in accordance with Article 17.5 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes.

I am writing to you pursuant to Article 17.5 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU), which stipulates that, as a general rule, the Appellate Body will circulate its report no later than 60 days after the appellant has formally notified the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of its decision to appeal. Article 17.5 states, furthermore, that when the Appellate Body considers that it cannot provide its report within 60 days, it shall inform the DSB in writing of the reasons for the delay together with an estimate of the period within which it will submit its report.

Canada and Norway notified the DSB on 24 January 2014 of their decision to appeal certain issues of law covered in the Panel Reports and legal interpretations developed by the Panel in those Reports, with the result that the 60-day period expires on Tuesday, 25 March 2014. The Appellate Body will not be able to circulate its reports by this date. Moreover, the Appellate Body will not be able to circulate its reports within the 90-day timeframe provided for in the last sentence of Article 17.5 of the DSU. This is a consequence of the requests made by the participants to postpone the date for the oral hearing and the subsequent rescheduling of the oral hearing from 3-5 March 2014 to 17-19 March 2014. It is also due to the size of these appeals, and the other appeal by the European Union, including the number and complexity of the issues raised by the participants. We estimate that the Appellate Body Reports in these appeals will be circulated to WTO Members no later than Tuesday, 20 May 2014.
