

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES¹ – DEFINITIVE ANTI-DUMPING MEASURES
ON CERTAIN IRON OR STEEL FASTENERS FROM CHINA**

Communication from the Chairman of the Panel

The following communication, dated 1 April 2010, addressed to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), is circulated pursuant to Article 12.9 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU).

Article 12.8 of the DSU stipulates 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 that the final report is issued to the parties, shall, as a general rule, not exceed six months.

Article 12.9 of the DSU states that when a panel considers that it cannot issue its report within six months, it shall inform the 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 *European Communities – Definitive Anti-Dumping Measures on Certain Iron or Steel Fasteners from China* (DS397) was established by the DSB on 23 October 2009 and composed on 9 December 2009.

It will not, however, be possible for the Panel to complete its work in six months in light of scheduling conflicts.

The Panel expects to complete its work in September 2010.

¹ On 1 December 2009, the Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community (done at Lisbon, 13 December 2007) entered into force. On 29 November 2009, the WTO received a Verbal Note (WT/L/779) from the Council of the European Union and the Commission of the European Communities stating that, by virtue of the Treaty of Lisbon, as of 1 December 2009, the European Union replaces and succeeds the European Community.