

**CHINA – MEASURES AFFECTING THE PROTECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

Communication from the Chairman of the Panel

The following communication, dated 16 July 2008, addressed to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), is circulated in accordance with Article 12.9 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (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 *China – Measures Affecting the Protection and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights* (WT/DS362) was established by the DSB on 25 September 2007, and composed on 13 December 2007.

Due to the complexity of issues presented in this case, the Panel will not be able to complete its work within six months from the date of the Panel's composition. The Panel expects to issue its final report to the parties to the dispute by November 2008.
