

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC – MEASURES AFFECTING
THE IMPORTATION AND INTERNAL SALE OF CIGARETTES**

Communication from the Chairman of the Panel

The following communication, dated 23 August 2004, addressed to 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 *Dominican Republic – Measures Affecting the Importation and Internal Sale of Cigarettes* (WT/DS302) was established by the DSB on 9 January 2004 and composed on 17 February 2004.

The Panel expects to complete its work by October 2004, as envisaged in the original timetable adopted after having heard the parties' views and based on the time periods prescribed in Appendix 3 of the DSU.
