

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES – SELECTED CUSTOMS MATTERS**

Communication from the Chairman of the Panel

The following communication, dated 24 November 2005, addressed to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 12.9 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU).

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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 – Selected Customs Matters* (WT/DS315) was established by the DSB on 21 March 2005 and the Panel was composed on 27 May 2005. It will not, however, be possible for the Panel to complete its work in six months as the Panel is still considering the legal and factual matters raised in this dispute.

The Panel hopes to complete its work by the end of March 2006.

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