

**UNITED STATES – MEASURES CONCERNING THE IMPORTATION,  
MARKETING AND SALE OF TUNA AND TUNA PRODUCTS**

Communication from the Chairman of the Panel

The following communication, dated 15 June 2010, addressed to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), is circulated in accordance with Article 12.9 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU).

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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 *United States – Measures Concerning the Importation, Marketing and Sale of Tuna and Tuna Products* (WT/DS381) was established by the DSB on 20 April 2009 and composed on 14 December 2009.

It will not, however, be possible for the Panel to complete its work within six months from the date of the Panel's composition due to the schedule adopted by the Panel in consultation with the parties. The Panel expects that it will issue its final report to the parties in February 2011.

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