

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES - TRADE DESCRIPTION OF SCALLOPS

Communication from the Chairman of the Panel

The following communication, dated 6 February 1996 and addressed to the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 12.9 of the DSU.

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Article 12.8 of the DSU stipulates that the period in which the 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, shall, as a general rule, not exceed six months.

Article 12.9 of the DSU states that when the 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 "European Communities - Trade Description of Scallops, requests by Peru and Chile" was established by the DSB on 11 October 1995 and parties agreed on its composition and terms of reference on 12 October 1995. In the light of requests by the parties, it was decided that the timetables of the two related disputes on Trade Description of Scallops (the present one and the one involving Canada) would be harmonized. Consequently, the Panel will not be able to issue its report within six months.

The Panel, in agreement with the Parties, expects to complete its work by the end of April 1996.