

**CANADA – PATENT PROTECTION FOR PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS**

Communication from the Chairman of the Panel

The following communication, dated 1 December 1999, addressed to the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 12.9 of the DSU.

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By means of a communication dated 7 October 1999, I informed you that the complex nature of the matter at issue in this dispute had caused a delay in the proceedings which prevented the Panel from completing its work within the six months from the Panel's composition as provided for in the DSU, and that the Panel intended to finalize its work in the second part of December 1999.<sup>1</sup>

However, since then, in addition to delays caused by the complex nature of the matter, the Panel has been faced with further constraints, mainly due to conflict with other obligations of Panel members which have arisen due to the initial delay.

The Panel expects to be in a position to send its final report to Members in the first part of March 2000.

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<sup>1</sup> Circulated in document WT/DS114/7.