



5 April 2013

(13-1747)

Page: 1/1

Original: English

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES – MEASURES PROHIBITING THE IMPORTATION
AND MARKETING OF SEAL PRODUCTS**

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PANEL

The following communication, dated 4 April 2013, addressed to the Chairperson of 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 accordingly and indicate the reasons, together with an estimate of the period within which it will issue its report.

The Panels on *European Communities – Measures Prohibiting the Importation and Marketing of Seal Products* (WT/DS400, WT/DS401) were established by the DSB on 25 March 2011 (WT/DS400) and 21 April 2011 (WT/DS401), and composed on 4 October 2012.

The Panel expects to issue its final report to the parties by October 2013, in accordance with the timetable adopted after consultation with the parties.
