

**UNITED STATES – DEFINITIVE SAFEGUARD MEASURES ON IMPORTS OF WHEAT  
GLUTEN FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**

Communication from the Chairman of the Panel

The following communication, dated 11 April 2000, 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 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 "United States – Definitive Safeguard Measure on Imports of Wheat Gluten from the European Communities" (DS166) was established by the DSB on 26 July 1999 and composed on 11 October 1999.

Due to the recent resignation of the Chairman of the Panel, it will not, however, be possible for the Panel to complete its work in accordance with the deadlines set out in the DSU. In view of the fact that a new Chairperson remains to be appointed, it is not possible at this moment to give you a clear indication of the time required for the Panel to complete its report.

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