

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES – MEASURES AFFECTING TRADE
IN COMMERCIAL VESSELS**

Communication from the Chairman of the Panel

The following communication, dated 12 November 2004, addressed to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 12.9 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU).

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 *European Communities – Measures Affecting Trade in Commercial Vessels* (WT/DS301) was established by the DSB on 19 March 2004, and composed on 13 May 2004. .

It will not be possible for the Panel to complete its work within six months of the date of composition, *inter alia* due to certain postponements in the Panel's timetable and other scheduling difficulties.

The Panel hopes to complete its work by the end of February 2005.
