

ARGENTINA - MEASURES AFFECTING IMPORTS OF
FOOTWEAR, TEXTILES, APPAREL AND OTHER ITEMS

Communication from the Chairman of the Panel

The following communication, dated 31 July 1997 and addressed to the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 12.9 of the 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 states that when a 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 *Argentina - Measures Affecting Imports of Footwear, Textiles, Apparel and other Items* (WT/DS56) was established by the DSB on 25 February 1997 and parties agreed to its composition and terms of reference on 4 April 1997. Due to administrative constraints and to the fact that it was found appropriate to give to the parties sufficient time to prepare their submissions, 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 at the beginning of November 1997.