

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

WT/DS291/26
WT/DS292/20
WT/DS293/20
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EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES – MEASURES AFFECTING THE APPROVAL AND MARKETING OF BIOTECH PRODUCTS

Communication from the Chairman of the Panel

The following communication, dated 18 August 2004, addressed to the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), is circulated in accordance with Article 12.9 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU).

The Panel in *European Communities – Measures Affecting the Approval and Marketing of Biotech Products* (WT/DS291, WT/DS292 and WT/DS293) indicated in its communication to the DSB of 12 July 2004 (WT/DS291/25, WT/DS292/19, WT/DS293/19) that it would provide at a later date an estimate of the period within which it will issue its report. The Panel is now in a position to do so. The Panel estimates that it will issue its final report to the parties by the end of March 2005. This delay is due to the parties' common request for additional time to prepare their rebuttals as well as the Panel's decision to seek scientific and technical expert advice pursuant to Article 11 of the *Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures* and Article 13 of the DSU.
