

**UNITED STATES – SAFEGUARD MEASURE ON IMPORTS OF
LAMB MEAT FROM NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA**

Communication from the Chairman of the Panel

The following communication, dated 27 September 2000, addressed to the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 12.9 of the 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 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 “United States – Safeguard Measure on Imports of Lamb Meat from New Zealand and Australia” was established by the DSB on 19 November 1999 to examine complaints from New Zealand and Australia.

The Panel was composed on 21 March 2000. However, due to scheduling difficulties, the Panel after consulting with the parties established a timetable that foresees completion of the Panel's work and circulation of its report to parties by the end of November 2000.
