

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

WT/DS248/16  
WT/DS249/10  
WT/DS251/11  
WT/DS252/9  
WT/DS253/9  
WT/DS254/9  
WT/DS258/13  
WT/DS259/12  
24 February 2003  
(03-1123)

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Original: English

## UNITED STATES – DEFINITIVE SAFEGUARD MEASURES ON IMPORTS OF CERTAIN STEEL PRODUCTS

### Communication from the Chairman of the Panel

The following communication, dated 20 February 2003, addressed to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 12.9 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (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 Panels on *United States – Definitive Safeguard Measures on Imports of Certain Steel Products* (WT/DS248, WT/DS249, WT/DS251, WT/DS252, WT/DS253, WT/DS254, WT/DS258 and WT/DS259) were established respectively by the DSB on 3 June, 14 June, 24 June, 8 July and 29 July 2002, and composed on 25 July 2002.

It will not, however, be possible for the Panel to complete its work in six months due to the volume, complexities and sensitivity of the legal and factual questions that have been raised.

The Panel hopes to complete its work by the end of April 2003.

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