



11 February 2021

(21-1165)

Page: 1/1

Original: English

## CANADA – MEASURES GOVERNING THE SALE OF WINE

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE PANEL

The following communication, dated 8 February 2021, addressed to the Chairperson of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), is circulated in accordance with Article 12.9 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU).

---

Article 12.9 of the DSU provides *inter alia* 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 in *Canada – Measures Governing the Sale of Wine* (DS537) was established by the DSB on 26 September 2018 and composed on 7 March 2019. Pursuant to the latest timetable adopted by the Panel in consultation with the parties and circulated to the DSB on 10 June 2020 (WT/DS537/11/Add.4), the final report of the Panel was expected to be issued to the parties on 17 August 2020.

The Panel wishes to inform the DSB that, as of July 2020, it has accepted several joint requests by the parties to delay the issuance of its interim report in order to allow the parties to find a mutually agreed solution. On 1 February 2021, the Panel accepted the parties' latest request, dated 29 January 2021, to further postpone the issuance of the interim report. The Panel also requested that the parties provide information on the status of the parties' discussions at the latest on 31 March 2021, in case the parties have not updated the Panel on the outcome of their discussions before that date.

In light of the foregoing, the Panel is not in a position to give an estimate of the period within which it will issue its report.

I would be grateful if you would circulate this letter to the DSB.

---