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UNITED STATES – CERTAIN MEASURES ON STEEL AND ALUMINIUM PRODUCTS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PANEL

The following communication, dated 9 December 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 12.8 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 of the DSU provides that, when a panel considers that it cannot issue its report within six months, it shall inform the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) in writing accordingly and indicate the reasons, together with an estimate of the period within which it will issue its report.

The Panel in *US – Steel and Aluminium Products (Switzerland)* (DS556) was established by the DSB on 4 December 2018 and composed on 25 January 2019.

On 4 February 2021, the Panel informed the DSB that it expected to issue its final report to the parties no earlier than the second half of 2021. Due to the complexity of the dispute, as well as the delays caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Panel now expects to issue its final report to the parties no earlier than the first half of 2022.

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