

BRAZIL - MEASURES AFFECTING DESICCATED COCONUT

Communication from the Chairman of the Panel

The following communication, dated 18 September 1996 and addressed to the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 12.9 of the DSU.

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Article 12.8 of the DSU stipulates that the period in which the 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, shall, as a general rule, not exceed six months.

Article 12.9 of the DSU states that when the 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 "Brazil - Measures affecting Desiccated Coconut" was established by the DSB on 5 March 1996, and the Parties agreed on its composition on 16 April 1996. In response to a request from the Philippines, the Panel has decided to allow additional time for the parties to submit written requests for Interim Review, and has extended the period for interim review. As a consequence, the Panel will not be able to issue its report within the six month period.

The Panel, in agreement with the Parties, expects to complete its work by mid-November 1996.