

**UNITED STATES – TRANSITIONAL SAFEGUARD MEASURE ON
COMBED COTTON YARN FROM PAKISTAN**

Communication from the Chairman of the Panel

The following communication, dated 13 March 2001 and 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 the panel shall conduct its examination, from the date that the composition and terms of reference of the panel have been decided 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 "United States – Transitional Safeguard Measure on Combed Cotton Yarn from Pakistan" was established at the request of Pakistan by the DSB on 19 June 2000. Parties agreed on the composition of the Panel on 30 August 2000. The Panel met with the parties on 16 and 17 November 2000 and on 13 December 2000. Additional time was required to fully consider and discuss the various complex issues involved in this matter. As a result, the Panel will not be able to issue its report within six months.

The Panel expects to complete its work by the middle of May 2001.
