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**RUSSIA – MEASURES AFFECTING THE IMPORTATION OF RAILWAY EQUIPMENT AND
PARTS THEREOF**

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PANEL

The following communication, dated 24 April 2018, 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 on *Russia – Measures Affecting the Importation of Railway Equipment and Parts Thereof* (DS499) was established by the DSB on 16 December 2016 and composed on 2 March 2017.

Due to the complex procedural and factual nature of the dispute, the Panel will be unable to finish its work this month (as estimated in our last letter circulated as WT/DS499/4). Following consultations with the parties, the Panel now expects to issue its final report to the parties in May 2018. The report will be available to the public once it is circulated to the Members in all three official languages of the WTO. The date of circulation depends on completion of translation and the Panel is not in a position to provide an estimated circulation date at this time.

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