

exchange programs are critical to the Department of State's foreign policy mission and public diplomacy strategy as they are designed to help promote a balanced and accurate view of the United States and build partnerships around the world.

Methodology: Data collected through the information collection will be derived from customer/ respondent paper and on-line surveys, personal interviews and/or focus groups. The customer/respondent base includes applicants, participants, alumni, program administrators, hosts and grantee organizations involved in ECA exchange programs.

Dated: August 17, 2004.

Cathy Chikes,

Executive Director, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 04-20525 Filed 9-9-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4816]

U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy Notice of Meeting

The U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy will hold a meeting at the U.S. Department of State at 2201 C Street, NW., Washington, DC on September 28, 2004 at 9 a.m. The Commissioners will release their 2004 annual report on public diplomacy programs.

The Commission was reauthorized pursuant to Public Law 106-113 (H.R. 3194, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2000). The U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy is a bipartisan Presidentially appointed panel created by Congress in 1948 to provide oversight of U.S. Government activities intended to understand, inform and influence foreign publics. The Commission reports its findings and recommendations to the President, the Congress and the Secretary of State and the American people. Current Commission members include Barbara M. Barrett of Arizona, who is the Chairman; Harold C. Pachios of Maine; Ambassador Penne Percy Korth of Washington, DC; Ambassador Elizabeth F. Bagley of Washington, DC; Charles "Tre" Evers III of Florida; Jay T. Snyder of New York; and Maria Sophia Aguirre of Washington, DC.

For more information, please contact Matt J. Lauer at (202) 203-7880.

Dated: September 3, 2004.

Matthew J. Lauer,

Executive Director, U.S. Advisory, Commission on Public Diplomacy, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 04-20524 Filed 9-9-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4784]

Shipping Coordinating Committee

The Department of State's Subcommittee on Ocean Dumping of the Shipping Coordinating Committee will hold an open meeting on Tuesday, October 26, 2004, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. to obtain public comment on the issues to be addressed at the November 1-5, 2004, Twenty-sixth Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Convention. The London Convention of 1972 is the global international treaty regulating ocean dumping. The meeting will also review the results of the Twenty-seventh Scientific Group Meeting of the London Convention that was held in Mombasa, Kenya from May 3-7, 2004.

In addition, participants at this meeting will discuss plans for ratification, by the United States, of the 1996 London Protocol. The Protocol is a treaty signed by the United States in 1998 that is separate from the London Convention. It sets forth a regime that is more comprehensive, more stringent, and more protective of the marine environment than the London Convention.

The public meeting will be held at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency offices located at 1201 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20004 in Room 1117A. Interested members of the public are invited to attend, up to the capacity of the room. Please check in with the EPA security desk when you enter the building.

For further information, please contact: Patrick Cotter, Office of International Affairs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 2660R, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460, telephone (202) 564-6414, e-mail cotter.patrick@epa.gov.

Dated: September 2, 2004.

Clayton Diamond,

Executive Secretary, Shipping Coordinating Committee, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 04-20523 Filed 9-9-04; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Generalized System of Preferences (GSP): Initiation of a Review To Consider the Designation of Serbia and Montenegro as a Beneficiary Developing Country Under the GSP

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice and solicitation of public comment.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the initiation of a review to consider the designation of Serbia and Montenegro as a beneficiary developing country under the GSP program and solicits public comment relating to the designation criteria. Comments are due October 12, 2004 in accordance with the requirements for submissions, explained below.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments by electronic mail (e-mail) to: FR0440@ustr.gov. For assistance or if unable to submit comments by e-mail, contact the GSP Subcommittee, Office of the United States Trade Representative; USTR Annex, Room F-220; 1724 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508 (Tel. 202-395-6971).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact the GSP Subcommittee, Office of the United States Trade Representative; USTR Annex, Room F-220; 1724 F Street, NW.; Washington, DC 20508 (Telephone: 202-395-6971, Facsimile: 202-395-9481).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The GSP Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) has initiated a review in order to make a recommendation to the President as to whether Serbia and Montenegro meets the eligibility criteria of the GSP statute, as set out below. After considering the eligibility criteria, the President is authorized to designate Serbia and Montenegro as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP.

Interested parties are invited to submit comments regarding the eligibility of Serbia and Montenegro for designation as a GSP beneficiary developing country. Documents should be submitted in accordance with the below instructions to be considered in this review.

Eligibility Criteria

The trade benefits of the GSP program are available to any country that the President designates as a GSP "beneficiary developing country." In designating countries as GSP beneficiary developing countries, the President must consider the criteria in sections

502(b)(2) and 502(c) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2462(b)(2), 2462(c)) ("the Act"). Section 502(b)(2) provides that a country is ineligible for designation if:

1. Such country is a Communist country, unless—

(a) The products of such country receive nondiscriminatory treatment, (b) Such country is a WTO Member (as such term is defined in section 2(10) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act) (19 U.S.C. 3501(10)) and a member of the International Monetary Fund, and (c) Such country is not dominated or controlled by international communism.

2. Such country is a party to an arrangement of countries and participates in any action pursuant to such arrangement, the effect of which is—

(a) To withhold supplies of vital commodity resources from international trade or to raise the price of such commodities to an unreasonable level, and (b) To cause serious disruption of the world economy.

3. Such country affords preferential treatment to the products of a developed country, other than the United States, which has, or is likely to have, a significant adverse effect on United States commerce.

4. Such country—

(a) Has nationalized, expropriated, or otherwise seized ownership or control of property, including patents, trademarks, or copyrights, owned by a United States citizen or by a corporation, partnership, or association which is 50 percent or more beneficially owned by United States citizens, (b) Has taken steps to repudiate or nullify an existing contract or agreement with a United States citizen or a corporation, partnership, or association which is 50 percent or more beneficially owned by United States citizens, the effect of which is to nationalize, expropriate, or otherwise seize ownership or control of property, including patents, trademarks, or copyrights, so owned, or (c) Has imposed or enforced taxes or other exactions, restrictive maintenance or operational conditions, or other measures with respect to property, including patents, trademarks, or copyrights, so owned, the effect of which is to nationalize, expropriate, or otherwise seize ownership or control of such property, unless the President determines that—

(i) Prompt, adequate, and effective compensation has been or is being made to the citizen, corporation, partnership, or association referred to above, (ii) Good faith negotiations to provide prompt, adequate, and effective compensation under the applicable

provisions of international law are in progress, or the country is otherwise taking steps to discharge its obligations under international law with respect to such citizen, corporation, partnership, or association, or (iii) A dispute involving such citizen, corporation, partnership, or association over compensation for such a seizure has been submitted to arbitration under the provisions of the Convention for the Settlement of Investment Disputes, or in another mutually agreed upon forum, and the President promptly furnishes a copy of such determination to the Senate and House of Representatives.

5. Such country fails to act in good faith in recognizing as binding or in enforcing arbitral awards in favor of United States citizens or a corporation, partnership, or association which is 50 percent or more beneficially owned by United States citizens, which have been made by arbitrators appointed for each case or by permanent arbitral bodies to which the parties involved have submitted their dispute.

6. Such country aids or abets, by granting sanctuary from prosecution to, any individual or group which has committed an act of international terrorism or the Secretary of State makes a determination with respect to such country under section 6(j)(1)(A) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. Appx. section 2405(j)(1)(A)) or such country has not taken steps to support the efforts of the United States to combat terrorism.

7. Such country has not taken or is not taking steps to afford internationally recognized worker rights to workers in the country (including any designated zone in that country).

8. Such country has not implemented its commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.

Section 502(c) provides that, in determining whether to designate any country as a GSP beneficiary developing country, the President shall take into account:

1. An expression by such country of its desire to be so designated;

2. The level of economic development of such country, including its per capita gross national product, the living standards of its inhabitants, and any other economic factors which the President deems appropriate;

3. Whether or not other major developed countries are extending generalized preferential tariff treatment to such country;

4. The extent to which such country has assured the United States that it will provide equitable and reasonable access to the markets and basic commodity resources of such country and the extent

to which such country has assured the United States that it will refrain from engaging in unreasonable export practices;

5. The extent to which such country is providing adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights;

6. The extent to which such country has taken action to—

(a) Reduce trade distorting investment practices and policies (including export performance requirements); and (b) Reduce or eliminate barriers to trade in services; and

7. Whether or not such country has taken or is taking steps to afford to workers in that country (including any designated zone in that country) internationally recognized worker rights. Note that the Trade Act of 2002 amended paragraph (D) of the definition of the term "internationally recognized worker rights," which now includes: (A) The right of association; (B) the right to organize and bargain collectively; (C) a prohibition on the use of any form of forced or compulsory labor; (D) a minimum age for the employment of children and a prohibition on the worst forms of child labor as defined in paragraph (6) of section 507(4) of the Act; and (E) acceptable conditions of work with respect to minimum wages, hours of work, and occupational safety and health.

Requirements for Submissions

Comments must be submitted to the Chairman of the GSP Subcommittee, Trade Policy Staff Committee. Comments, in English, must be received no later than 5 p.m., October 12, 2004.

In order to facilitate prompt consideration of submissions, USTR strongly urges and prefers electronic mail (e-mail) submissions in response to this notice. If unable to provide submissions by e-mail, please contact the GSP Subcommittee to arrange for an alternative method of transmission. Hand delivered submissions and facsimile submissions will not normally be accepted.

Submissions by e-mail should not provide separate cover letters or messages in the message area of the e-mail; information that might appear in any cover letter should be included directly in the attached file containing the submission. The name and organization of the submitter, address, telephone and facsimile numbers, and e-mail address, should be included in the attached file itself.

The e-mail submissions should be a single copy transmission, in English, with the total submission, including attachments, not to exceed 50 double-

spaced, standard-size pages (8½ x 11 inch) in 12 point type as a digital file, not exceeding 1 megabyte in size, attached to an e-mail transmission.

Submissions by e-mail should use the following subject line: "Serbia and Montenegro GSP Eligibility Review." Documents must be submitted as either WordPerfect ("*.WPD"), MSWord ("*.DOC"), or text ("*.TXT") files. Documents shall not be submitted as electronic image files or contain large imbedded images (for example, "*.JPG", "*.PDF", "*.BMP", "*.TIF", or "*.GIF"), as these types of files are generally excessively large.

Any supporting documentation submitted as spreadsheets is acceptable as Quattro Pro or Excel, preformatted for printing on 8½ x 11 inch paper. To the extent possible, any data attachments to the submission should be included in the same file as the submission itself and not as separate files, and should not cause the entire submission to exceed the 50 page and 1 megabyte size limits.

Information and comments submitted will be subject to public inspection by appointment with the staff of the USTR Public Reading Room, except for information granted "business confidential" status pursuant to 15 CFR 2003.6. If the submission contains business confidential information, a non-confidential version of the submission must also be submitted that indicates where confidential information was redacted by inserting asterisks where material was deleted. In addition, the confidential submission must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" at the top and bottom of each and every page of the document.

The public version that does not contain business confidential information must also be clearly marked at the top and bottom of each and every page (either "PUBLIC VERSION" or "NONCONFIDENTIAL"). Documents that are submitted without any marking might not be accepted or will be considered public documents.

For any document containing business confidential information submitted as an electronic attached file to an e-mail transmission, the file name of the business confidential version should begin with the characters "BC-", and the file name of the public version should begin with the characters "P-". The "P-" or "BC-" should be followed by the name of the submitter.

Public versions of all documents relating to this review will be available for review approximately 30 days after the due date by appointment in the USTR public reading room, 1724 F Street NW., Washington, DC.

Appointments may be made from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday by calling (202) 395-6186.

Steven Falken,

Executive Director GSP; Chairman, GSP Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee.

[FR Doc. 04-20477 Filed 9-9-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-W4-P

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES
TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**

**Request for Comments and Notice of
Public Hearing on Potential Withdrawal
of Tariff Concessions and Increase in
Applied Duties in Response to
European Union (EU) Enlargement and
EU Changes to Its Rice Import Regime**

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Request for comments and notice of public hearing concerning a list of goods for which tariff concessions may be withdrawn and duties may be increased in the event the United States cannot reach agreement with the European Union (EU) for adequate compensation owed under World Trade Organization (WTO) rules as a result of EU enlargement and EU changes to its rice import regime.

SUMMARY: The United States is continuing to negotiate with the EU regarding the EU's provision of adequate and permanent compensation to the United States for two recent EU actions that have increased duties on U.S. imports to EU markets above WTO bound rates of duty. On May 1, 2004, as part of its enlargement process, the EU raised tariffs above bound rates on some imports into the countries of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Hungary, Cyprus and Malta. In addition, on September 1, 2004, the EU changed its rice import regime, raising tariffs on some rice imports above the maximum permissible WTO rate of duty. If either or both of these issues are not resolved, the United States may seek to exercise its rights under Article XXVIII of the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994* ("GATT 1994") to withdraw substantially equivalent concessions and raise tariffs on select goods primarily supplied by the EU. The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) seeks public comment on the attached list of goods for which U.S. tariff concessions may be withdrawn and applied duties may be raised. The TPSC will hold a public hearing on Friday, September 24, 2004, on the list which

may be used for either or both of these issues.

DATES: Persons wishing to testify orally at the hearing must provide written notification of their intention, as well as a copy of their testimony, by noon on Friday, September 17, 2004. A hearing will be held in Washington, DC on Friday, September 24, 2004. Written comments are due by noon on Tuesday, September 28, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Submissions by electronic mail to FR0443@ustr.eop.gov; requests to testify should also be addressed to Anita Thomas, Secretary, Office of Europe and the Mediterranean, Office of the United States Trade Representative, at email: anita_thomas@ustr.eop.gov. Submissions by facsimile to: Anita Thomas at fax: (202) 395-3974. The public is strongly encouraged to submit documents electronically rather than by facsimile. (See requirements for submissions below).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions about participation in the hearings, contact Anita Thomas at (202) 395-3320. For procedural questions concerning written comments, contact Laurie Molnar, Director for European and Mediterranean Trade Issues, at (202) 395-3320. All other questions should be directed to: Laurie Molnar, (202) 395-3320; Sharon Sydow, Director Agricultural Trade Policy, (202) 395-5414; or Tiffany Smith, Director for Market Access (202) 395-5656; Office of the United States Trade Representative.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under WTO rules, the United States is entitled to compensation from the EU resulting both from EU tariff changes as a result of EU enlargement and EU changes to its rice import regime. If agreement on compensation cannot be reached on either or both of these issues, the United States would be entitled to withdraw substantially equivalent concessions and apply increased duties on products of interest to the EU. In addition to the information presented below on these EU actions, relevant WTO rules, and domestic procedures, additional supplemental information on the EU enlargement tariff compensation negotiations and the rice margin of preference issues can be found on the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative's Web site at: http://www.ustr.gov/World_Regions/Europe_Mediterranean/European_Union/Section_Index.html.

Enlargement: With the accession to the EU of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Hungary, Cyprus and Malta ("the new EU Member States"), the EU withdrew the entire WTO tariff schedules of the new EU Member States