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## Trade Briefs

### Squabble Over U.S.-Columbia FTA Continues; Democrats Press for TAA Passage

The issue of whether the Bush Administration will pass the U.S.-Columbia Free Trade Agreement onto Congress without the consent of Democratic leadership remains a hot topic in Washington. Congressional Democrats strongly resent the thought of the White House breaking standard legislative protocol. Moreover, they list the revision and expansion of the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program as a higher priority than the passage of any FTA.

It is important to note that the Democrats in Congress consider enacting legislation expanding trade adjustment assistance as a prerequisite to consideration of additional free trade agreements. Indeed, many Democrats in Congress have adopted the position that they would not consider a vote on the trade accord with Columbia until Congress passed an expanded Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) bill. TAA is designed to provide aid to workers who lose their jobs or whose wages are reduced due to trade.

This position is evidenced in an April 3<sup>rd</sup> statement by Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus. Baucus warned the White House that while sending the Columbia-FTA to Congress without leadership approval could be detrimental to the agreement, the Senate was willing to compromise on the trade pact in exchange for the White House's support for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA). Furthermore, Baucus seemed positive that movement on TAA could pave the way for the passage of free trade agreements. He even went so far as to criticize unions for their anti-trade agendas, saying "to posit trade as against the American worker is neither fair nor true."

As an aside, it is important to consider how this disagreement between the White House and Congress relates to the 2008 presidential elections. While Republican candidate John McCain has a very pro-trade platform, Democratic candidates Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama have spoken out against free trade. Though it is not certain what trade policies these candidates would pursue if they were elected president, they have been appealing to the base of Democratic voters – a large segment of which are blue-collar and unionized workers who feel threatened by trade – throughout the course of their campaigns. It is possible that they could carry their anti-trade promises with them into the presidency. In fact, trade policy experts are beginning to express concern over the unfriendly trade rhetoric and its potentially negative consequences.

### U.S. and Ukraine Sign Trade Deal

The United States Trade Representative (USTR) announced April 1<sup>st</sup> that the United States and Ukraine signed a Trade and Investment Cooperation Agreement (TICA). Designed to provide a forum for dealing with trade issues and to foster investment relations between the two nations, TICA was signed by USTR's Ambassador Susan C. Schwab and the Ukrainian Economic Minister, Bohdan Danylyshyn. Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko praised the agreement in an April 1<sup>st</sup> press conference with President Bush, noting that "it lays the necessary

foundation to start negotiations on the free trade area between our countries...it opens new prospects for our relations.”

This bilateral agreement closely follows the recent acceptance of Ukraine’s accession terms to the World Trade Organization (WTO). USTR Schwab recognized Ukraine for this achievement, stating “Ukraine is making important strides to modernize its economy and attract foreign trade and investment. We expect this agreement (TICA) to provide a solid foundation for the discussion of the full range of trade and investment issues.”

In addition to providing a forum for addressing trade issues, TICA includes provisions for the creation of a joint U.S.-Ukraine Council on Trade and Investment. This Council will have as its goal identifying and eliminating trade and investment barriers between the two nations.

## Dumping Watch

### ITC Makes Preliminary Determination on Welded Stainless Steel Pressure Pipe (WSPP) from China

The ITC announced March 31<sup>st</sup> its affirmative preliminary determinations in both the antidumping and countervailing duty investigations on welded stainless steel pressure pipe (WSPP) from China (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-454 and 731-TA-1144). This finding means that the Commission believes it is possible that the domestic industry is being injured or is threatened with material injury from imports of WSPP. The ITC also gave notice that it will begin the final phase of investigations in this case.

## Federal Register Notices

### *International Trade Administration*

Initiation of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Administrative Reviews, Request for Revocation in Part, and Deferral of Administrative Review. *73 FR 16837-16838*, March 31, 2008.

Notice of open meeting; Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee (ETTAC). *73 FR 16838-16839*, March 31, 2008.

**[A-427-820] Stainless Steel Bar from France:** Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review. *73 FR 16839-16842*, March 31, 2008.

**[A-570-932] Steel Threaded Rod from the People's Republic of China:** Initiation of Antidumping Duty Investigation. *73 FR 17318-17323*, April 1, 2008.

**[A-570-803] Heavy Forged Hand Tools, Finished or Unfinished, With or Without Handles, from the People's Republic of China:** Notice of Amended Final Results of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Antidumping Duty Order Pursuant to Court Decision. *73 FR 17316-17317*, April 1, 2008.

Antidumping or Countervailing Duty Order, Finding, or Suspended Investigation; Opportunity To Request Administrative Review. *73 FR 17317-17318*, April 1, 2008.

Antidumping or Countervailing Duty Order, Finding, or Suspended Investigation; Advance Notification of Sunset Reviews. *73 FR 17318*, April 1, 2008. *73 FR 17318*, April 1, 2008.

Notice of Application for an Export Trade Certificate of Review from Sirius Chemical Group, Inc. *73 FR 17323-17324*, April 1, 2008.

Quarterly Update to Annual Listing of Foreign Government Subsidies on Articles of Cheese Subject to an In-Quota Rate of Duty. *73 FR 17324*, April 1, 2008.

North American Free-Trade Agreement, Article 1904; NAFTA Panel Reviews; Request for Panel Review. *73 FR 17324-17325*, April 1, 2008.

Export Trade Certificate of Review. [Application No. 08-00003]. *73 FR 17951-17952*, April 2, 2008.

**Carbon and Certain Alloy Steel Wire Rod from Trinidad and Tobago [A-274-804].** Notice of Initiation and Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Changed Circumstances Review. *73 FR 17952-17954*, April 2, 2008.

**Solid Urea From the Russian Federation [A-821-801]:** Extension of Time Limit for Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review. *73 FR 17954*, April 2, 2008.

Rice University, Notice of Decision on Application for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instrument. *73 FR 17954*, April 2, 2008.

VA Connecticut Healthcare System, et al., Notice of Consolidated Decision on Applications for Duty-Free Entry of Electron Microscopes. *73 FR 17954-17955*, April 2, 2008.

Application for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instruments. *73 FR 18258-18259*, April 3, 2008.

**Polyethylene Terephthalate Film, Sheet, and Strip from the Republic of Korea [A-580-807]:** Final Results of Antidumping Duty Changed Circumstances Review and Reinstatement of the Antidumping Duty Order. *73 FR 18259-18260*, April 3, 2008.

**[A-552-802] Frozen Warmwater Shrimp from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam:** Initiation of Antidumping Duty New Shipper Review. *73 FR 18510-18511*, April 4, 2008.

**Certain Tissue Paper Products from the People's Republic of China [A-570-894]:** Preliminary Results and Partial Rescission of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review. *73 FR 18497-18503*, April 4, 2008.

**[A-570-836] Glycine from the People's Republic of China:** Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review and Partial Rescission. *73 FR 18503-18510*, April 4, 2008.

**Circular Welded Austenitic Stainless Pressure Pipe from the People's Republic of China [C-570-931]:** Amended Notice of Postponement of Preliminary Determination in the Countervailing Duty Investigation. *73 FR 18511*, April 4, 2008.

*International Trade Commission*

**[Investigation No. 332-497]** Advice Concerning Possible Modifications to the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences, 2007 Review of Competitive Need Limit Waivers. *73 FR 16909*, March 31, 2008.

**[Investigation No. 337-TA-620] Certain Low Antimony Phosphoric Acid;** Notice of Commission Decision Not To Review an Initial Determination Terminating the Investigation on the Basis of a Settlement Agreement. *73 FR 16909-16910*, March 31, 2008.

**[Inv. No. 337-TA-641] Certain Variable Speed Wind Turbines and Components Thereof;** Notice of Investigation. *73 FR 16910*, March 31, 2008.

**[Investigation Nos. 731-TA-1092 and 1093 (Final) (Remand)] Diamond Sawblades and Parts Thereof From China and Korea.** Notice of remand proceedings. *73 FR 16910-16911*, March 31 2008.

**[Investigation Nos. 701-TA-454; 731-TA-1144 (Preliminary)] Welded Stainless Steel Pressure Pipe from China.** Determinations that there is a reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is materially injured or threatened with material injury by reason of imports from China of welded stainless steel pressure pipe, provided for in subheading 7306.40 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, that are alleged to be subsidized by the Government of China and sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV). *73 FR 16911-16912*, March 31, 2008.

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request. *73 FR 17997-17998*, April 2, 2008.

**[Inv. No. 337-TA-642] Certain Catheter, Consoles and Other Apparatus for Cryosurgery, and Components Thereof;** Notice of Investigation. *73 FR 17998-17999*, April 2, 2008.

**[Investigation No. 337-TA-512] Certain Light-Emitting Diodes and Products Containing Same;** Notice of Issuance on Remand of a Limited Exclusion Order With Respect to Certain Patents. *73 FR 17999-18000*, April 2, 2008.

Government in the Sunshine Act Meeting Notice [USITC SE-08-006]. *73 FR 18000*, April 2, 2008.

**[Investigation No. 337-TA-619] Certain Flash Memory Controllers, Drives, Memory Cards, and Media Players and Products Containing Same;** Notice of Commission Decision Not To Review an Initial Determination Granting Complainant's Motion to Amend the Notice of Investigation. *73 FR 18300*, April 3, 2008.

**Persulfates from China [Investigation No. 731-TA-749 (Second Review)].** Determination. *73 FR 18561*, April 4, 2008.

**Steel Wire Garment Hangers from China [Investigation No. 731-TA-1123 (Final)].** Scheduling of the final phase of an antidumping investigation. *73 FR 18560-18561*. April 4, 2008.

**[Inv. No. 337-TA-643] Certain Cigarettes and Packaging Thereof;** Notice of Investigation. *73 FR 18561-18562*, April 4, 2008.

**[Inv. No. 337-TA-642] Certain Catheters, Consoles and Other Apparatus for Cryosurgery, and Components Thereof;** Correction to the Notice of Investigation. *73 FR 18562*, April 4, 2008.

### The Week Ahead

- On April 8<sup>th</sup>, the International Trade Commission (ITC) will hold a preliminary conference regarding the antidumping investigation on frontseating service valves from China (Inv. No. 731-TA-1148(P)). This conference is part of the investigative process at the ITC, but is not a hearing before the Commissioners. It will be open to the public.
- The ITC April 9<sup>th</sup> will hold a hearing on the commercial availability of denim fabric in certain less developed, sub-Saharan African countries. The ITC is required by the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) to make determinations regarding whether denim fabric that was deemed to be commercially available in the 2007 fiscal year was actually used in the production of apparel exports to the United States receiving preference under AGOA. Moreover, ITC will also determine whether certain denim fabric will be available in commercial quantities during the fiscal year 2009. ITC will submit a report to the President and USTR by August 2008.
- Also on April 9<sup>th</sup>, a preliminary conference on 1-Hydroxyethylidene-1,1-Diphosphonic Acid (HEDP) from China and India (Inv. Nos. 1146-1147 (P)) will be held at the ITC. This conference is part of the standard investigative process at ITC and is not a hearing before the Commissioners. It will be open to the public.
- On April 10<sup>th</sup>, ITC will hold a vote on the sunset review of PET film, sheet, and strip from India and Taiwan (Inv. Nos. 731-TA-415 and 731-TA-933-934 (R)).
- April 10<sup>th</sup> also marks the deadline for submission of written comments on miscellaneous duty suspension proposals and corrections to trade laws to the House Ways and Means Committee, Trade Subcommittee. After this date, the

Subcommittee will begin to review all comments received to determine which bills should or should not be included in a miscellaneous tariff bill (MTB) package.

- The ITC April 11<sup>th</sup> will hold a hearing regarding the antidumping and countervailing duty investigations on light-walled rectangular pipe and tube from China, Korea, Mexico, and Turkey (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-449 and 731-TA-1121(F)).