



WASHINGTON MONITOR

A Weekly Review of U.S. Trade Policy Developments Affecting Japan

February 9, 2010

Volume 14 Issue 6

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Trade Briefs

Increases in ITA Funding in Obama's 2011 Budget

On February 1, President Barack Obama announced his 2011 budget, a plan that includes \$3.8 trillion in spending. The budget includes increased spending for the International Trade Administration (ITA), primarily to support the President's National Export Initiative.

The \$3.8 trillion budget, up from the \$3.6 billion budget of 2010, calls for increases in some areas and cuts in others. The Department of Agriculture, the Department of Defense, the Department of Education, the Department of Energy, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Department of Transportation, and the Treasury Department will get increases in their budgets.

The Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Interior, the Department of Labor, the State Department, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will see their overall budgets cut.

In particular, there will be increased funding for research at the Energy Department, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation, and the Census Bureau. The budget cuts 120 programs, for a savings of \$20 billion.

While Commerce will see an overall decrease in funding of 34.4%, the ITA's budget will be increased by 20%, rising from \$446 million in 2010 to \$534 million in 2011. The Administration intends to use the extra funds to finance their National Export Initiative, to improve trade agreement enforcement, to remove foreign barriers to U.S. products and services, and to make U.S. firms more competitive in the global marketplace.

The National Export Initiative, announced in Obama's State of the Union address, will have the goal of doubling U.S. exports within 5 years. The initiative will focus on three areas: increasing trade advocacy and educating firms about the benefits of international trade; improving access to credit for businesses looking to export; and enforcing trade laws to ensure free and fair access to global markets.

The plan is still in its infancy, and a detailed plan will be delivered to the President within 180 days.

The implications of the increased funding for the ITA and for the National Export Initiative are not clear. Obama appears to be following through on his strategy of stepping up enforcement to build confidence in trade before pursuing implementation of new trade agreements. The fact that there is an increase in funding, though, in light of budget cuts to the Department of Commerce overall, certainly indicates a shift in focus toward trade policy, however small.

Dumping Watch

Final Results, Rescission in AD Administrative Review of Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils from Taiwan

On February 5, the Department of Commerce (DOC) gave notice in the *Federal Register* of final results and rescission in part in the administrative review of the antidumping (AD) duty order on stainless steel sheet and strip in coils (SSSSC) from Taiwan. The preliminary results of this review were issued on August 5, 2009, and the final results do not differ from those preliminary results. The weighted-average dumping margin for Chia Far Industrial Factory Co., Ltd. was calculated to be 4.30%. The all-others rate will continue to be 12.61%. Also, the DOC is rescinding the review for Ta Chen Stainless Pipe Co., Ltd. (Ta Chen).

Federal Register Notices

International Trade Administration

[A-570-908] First Antidumping Duty Administrative Review of Sodium Hexametaphosphate from the People's Republic of China: Extension of Time Limit for the Preliminary Results 75 FR 5946-5947, February 5, 2010.

[A-583-831] Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils from Taiwan: Final Results and Rescission in Part of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review 75 FR 5947-5950, February 5, 2010.

[A-570-890] Wooden Bedroom Furniture From the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review and Intent To Rescind Review in Part 75 FR 5952-5964, February 5, 2010.

[A-583-833] Certain Polyester Staple Fiber From Taiwan: Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review 75 FR 5964-5967, February 5, 2010.

Executive-Led Trade Mission to Colombia and Panama; November 15-18, 2010 75 FR 5761-5763, February 4, 2010.

[A-570-905] Notice of Correction to the First Administrative Review of Certain Polyester Staple Fiber From the People's Republic of China: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review 75 FR 5763, February 4, 2010.

[A-570-855] Certain Non-Frozen Apple Juice Concentrate from the People's Republic of China: Initiation of Antidumping Duty New Shipper Review 75 FR 5763-5764, February 4, 2010.

[A-570-863] Honey from the People's Republic of China: Initiation of New Shipper Antidumping Duty Reviews 75 FR 5764-5765, February 4, 2010.

[A-570-947] Certain Steel Grating from the People's Republic of China: Postponement of Final Determination 75 FR 5766-5767, February 4, 2010.

[A-570-951] Certain Woven Electric Blankets From the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Postponement of Final Determination 75 FR 5567-5575, February 3, 2010.

Mission Statement; Franchise Trade Mission to Mexico; March 3-5, 2010 *75 FR 5285-5287*, February 2, 2010.

Antidumping or Countervailing Duty Order, Finding, or Suspended Investigation; Advance Notification of Sunset Reviews *75 FR 5037*, February 1, 2010.

Antidumping or Countervailing Duty Order, Finding, or Suspended Investigation; Opportunity to Request Administrative Review *75 FR 5037-5039*, February 1, 2010.

Initiation of Five-year ("Sunset") Review *75 FR 5042-5043*, February 1, 2010.

International Trade Commission

[USITC SE-10-001] Government in the Sunshine Act Meeting Notice *75 FR 6060*, February 5, 2010.

[Investigation No. 337-TA-665] In the Matter of: Certain Semiconductor Integrated Circuits and Products Containing Same; Notice of Commission Determination To Review in Part a Final Initial Determination Finding No Violation of Section 337 and on Review To Take No Position on One Issue; Termination of the Investigation With a Finding of No Violation *75 FR 5804*, February 4, 2010.

[Inv. No. 332-509; Inv. No. 332-510] Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises: U.S. and EU Export Activities, and Barriers and Opportunities Experienced by U.S. Firms and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises: Characteristics and Performance *75 FR 5804-5806*, February 4, 2010.

[Investigation No. 337-TA-684] In the Matter of Certain Articulated Coordinate Measuring Arms and Components Thereof; Notice of a Commission Determination Not To Review an Initial Determination Terminating the Investigation Based on a Settlement Agreement *75 FR 5285-5287*, February 2, 2010.

[Investigation No. 731-TA-1070B (Review)] Tissue Paper From China *75 FR 5115-5118*, February 1, 2010.

[Docket No. 1210-5] Possible Modifications to the International Harmonized System Nomenclature *75 FR 5118-5119*, February 1, 2010.

The Week Ahead

- On February 9, the ITC will hold a committee hearing on its general fact-finding investigations into how small and medium-sized enterprises experience U.S. and EU export activities.