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## Estevez Cites National Security, Looking at “Other Areas”

Undersecretary of Commerce Alan Estevez shared his perspective on export controls in National Security, and the allies’ reaction to the Department’s Commerce wide-ranging export controls related to semiconductors announced earlier this month. At the Center for a New American Security October 27, Mr. Estevez reflected on his mission, multilateralism, and what to expect from his organization [*remarks edited for brevity, [video here](#)*]:

“We put out an interesting rule on October 7th. Frankly, from my perspective, that is just business as usual at BIS, the Bureau of Industry and Security. That is what we're supposed to be doing. I announced during my testimony in July before both the Senate and the House that I was doing a China review. This is part of that review.

I also keep getting asked when will that China review be done? That China review will be done when the Chinese change their behavior. **So we are going to continue to look at not just what we did in semiconductors, but other areas that the Chinese are using to threaten the United States and its allies.**

**We put a restriction on US persons** that facilitate those lines, those advanced lines, so that no one can go in calibrate the tool that is the US person and we're working through some some additional clarification and guidance on that. I think the US persons thing surprised a lot of people and we're working in FAQ around that so that people see exactly clarification. It was not trying to go after the billing clerk.

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**I want to just quickly cover a couple of myths about the way we operate.** I've heard that we approve, you know, 95% of the licenses to China. The reality is closer to 67%. And that also means a couple of things in that. One, companies do not come in for a license because it's a waste of their time and a waste of our time. It's really a waste of their corporate time to come in for a license that they know they're going to be denied. So if they have clarity and we try to give them clarity that this is not going to be allowed, they are not going to come in for a license for that. So that's not even in those numbers.

And then many times we send licenses back and say we have lots of questions about this. When you see those 90% numbers that "send back" is not included in that. Usually when we send back, we don't get anything back from them, which essentially ends it. So, you know, the numbers are not as clear as one would say when they say we're approving 97% of the licenses.

**My final clarification is around national security and foreign policy issues.** It is not, despite the some of the views out there, about economic destruction of China. This is about national security. Our actions are purely about national security.

**I'll also say we do not balance trade with national security.** When I see an action that needs to be taken for national security, I have top-down coverage to go take care of that regardless of the impact. No one has ever come to me and said go balance this with our trade requirements.

**My job is not to change their behavior.** I'm not here as a diplomat. I'm here as the Chief Technology Protection Officer of the United States, and my job is to protect national security. And where we see national security threats from use of Western technology against us, we're going to try to close those gaps. Coming from my background as being the chief logistician of the Department of Defense, and the number two weapons buyer for the Department of Defense, letting a foreign adversary use US technology or allied technology just goes against the grain for me.

## **BIS - Axelrod Issues Report Card on Academic Outreach**

In a presentation at Oregon State University October 26, Assistant Secretary for Export Enforcement Matt Axelrod shared what he called a "mid-semester evaluation" of the Office of Export Enforcement's Academic Outreach Initiative of prioritized engagement, briefings and training announced last Summer.

**First, OEE prioritized engagement with twenty academic research institutions** whose work gives them an elevated risk profile. These are institutions that: (1) possess ties to foreign universities that are on the Entity List; (2) are involved in R&D for the Department of Defense; or (3) are conducting research in sensitive technologies subject to the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) - for example, laboratories conducting applied research on emerging or foundational technologies.

**Second, an individual outreach agent has been to each of the twenty prioritized universities.** These “outreach agents” serve as a dedicated point of contact for the university to help answer questions, build long-term relationships, and help prevent unauthorized exports of technology or source code

**Third, OEE will offer background briefings** on known national security risks associated with specific foreign entities or efforts by foreign adversaries to acquire specific technologies that are directly relevant to that particular university.

**Finally, training activities will include a centralized briefing** to the 20 partner universities on identifying red flags and mitigating risks, followed by a webinar on conducting open-source research. The centralized briefing is offered twice this fall, with the first one scheduled for October 27. In December, OEE will provide the additional training session on how to best conduct open-source research to better vet potential partners.

## **WTO - Food Trade Rules Need Work says D.G.**

*[Geneva via WTD]* – World Trade Organization members should update the rules governing agricultural trade because they have not kept up with current changes, Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala told participants yesterday at a retreat on trade and agriculture.

“It’s increasingly clear that WTO rules have not kept pace with the challenges we face today, nor with developments on global markets,” the DG said. The day-long retreat was held so that members could discuss possible new approaches to the WTO agriculture negotiations that have been stalled by entrenched differences. As the retreat grew to a close, the Director-General said she sensed that members are willing to move away long-time positions and consider new options to move the agriculture negotiations forward after 20 years without an agreement.

The retreat included two plenary sessions open to all WTO members where leading experts on farm trade and food security addressed the various challenges facing the agricultural sector and possible policy responses. Members were also divided into five break-out sessions to exchange views and brainstorm on two questions: how should the WTO approach agriculture and what should be the key considerations going forward; and how can the WTO’s agriculture negotiations be reinvigorated to achieve possible outcomes at the next Ministerial Conference.

Ms. Okonjo-Iweala told the gathering that members “will have to update the WTO rulebook if we’re to respond effectively to the problems on global markets, and ensure WTO disciplines help us tackle the challenges we’re facing both today and tomorrow.” Farm trade is important to ending hunger and supporting sustainable agriculture, the DG said. Since the WTO first agreed on agriculture rules, challenges like climate change and rapid population growth are creating food security concerns.

New opportunities also are emerging in areas like the digitalization of food and farming, she stated. Food export restrictions continue to exacerbate the effect of price spikes on poor consumers in food-importing countries. The DG pointed out that issues such as public stockholding for food security purposes, market access, cotton, a proposed special safeguard mechanism and improving transparency remain outstanding in the farm trade negotiations.

"The WTO needs to do its part to drive progress towards the SDGs (UN Sustainable Development Goals), in particular the SDG on ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture," she told participants. "The WTO needs to factor people into its agreements and negotiations."

## DoD Releases National Defense Strategy

The Defense Department today for the first time released the public versions of three strategic documents — [the National Defense Strategy, the Nuclear Posture Review and the Missile Defense Review](#) — together after having developed both the classified and unclassified versions of all three in conjunction with one another.

"By weaving these documents together, we help ensure that the entire department is moving forward together, matching our resources to our goals," Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin said. "The strength and combat credibility of the joint force remains central to integrated deterrence."

The 2022 National Defense Strategy, or NDS, places a **primary focus on the need to sustain and strengthen U.S. deterrence against China**. It also advances a focus on collaboration with a growing network of U.S. allies and partners on shared objectives.

In addition to addressing both China and an increase in the importance of partnerships, the NDS also takes into account the challenges posed by Russian — especially considering its invasion of Ukraine — along with threats posed by North Korea, Iran and violent extremist organizations. The NDS also includes a focus on challenges to security, such as pandemics and climate change.

[\[Release document\]](#)

## OFAC / Nicaragua Actions

Setting aside concerns about exacerbating the flow of migrants from the Central American country, the Administration imposed further sanctions on Nicaraguan officials and entities. Adding to the June 2022 leadership sanctions and elimination of the Sugar Import Allotment, new measures introduced October 24 impose visa restrictions on over 500 Nicaraguan individuals and their family members pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 10309. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control imposed sanctions on Nicaraguan mining authority General Directorate of Mines, an office in the Ministry of Energy and Mines, and Reinaldo Gregorio Lenin Cerna Juarez, a close confidante of Nicaraguan President Ortega, pursuant to E.O. 13851. [\[White House and Treasury releases.\]](#)

By value, mining chamber Caminic said previously it expects gold exports to rise to \$1 Billion this year, with further growth in 2023-24. Exports reached US\$561mn in January-July compared to US\$877mn in full-year 2021, with gold being Nicaragua's second highest export product so far this year after coffee. For the fiscal year that ended in September, U.S. border agents encountered Nicaraguans nearly 164,000 times at the southwest border — more than triple the level for the previous year.

## Chinese Spycraft Targeted

In three separate cases in the U.S. Attorneys' Offices for the Eastern District of New York and the District of New Jersey, the Justice Department has charged 13 individuals, including members of the People's Republic of China (PRC) security and intelligence apparatus and their agents, for alleged efforts to unlawfully exert influence in the United States for the benefit of the government of the PRC.

In the Eastern District of New York, an [eight-count indictment](#) was unsealed on Oct. 20 charging seven PRC nationals – two of whom were arrested on Oct. 20 in New York – with participating in a scheme to cause the forced repatriation of a PRC national residing in the United States. The defendants are accused of conducting surveillance of and **engaging in a campaign to harass and coerce a U.S. resident to return to the PRC** as part of an international extralegal repatriation effort known as "Operation Fox Hunt."

A [criminal complaint](#) was unsealed today in federal court in Brooklyn charging two People's PRC intelligence officers with **attempting to obstruct a criminal prosecution of a global telecommunications company (Huawei)**. The defendants, who remain at large are alleged to have paid a \$41,000 Bitcoin bribe to a U.S. government employee who the defendants believed had been recruited to work for the PRC, but who in fact was a double agent working on behalf of the FBI.

In the District of New Jersey, an [indictment](#) was unsealed today charging four Chinese nationals, including three Ministry of State Security (MSS) intelligence officers, in connection with a long-running intelligence campaign **targeting individuals in the United States to act as agents of the PRC**. One targeted individual, a former federal law enforcement officer and state homeland security official and a professor at an American university was requested to sign a contract for purported consulting services with a Chinese company whose "core value" was the "national interest and national security" of China, with an objective to "protect the national interest and Chinese enterprises' overseas interest[s]" and to "build sources and channels to collect security information." Recognizing his handlers as Chinese intelligence officers, the individual refused these requests and reported them to law enforcement.

## EU – US TTC Task Force on EV Dispute

Ahead of the December 5 Trade and Technology Council ministerial in Washington, the United States and European Union have set up a task force to address Brussels' concerns that a tax credit for the purchase of US-made electric vehicles in the **Inflation Reduction Act** discriminates against European auto manufacturers.

President Ursula von der Leyen launched the task force "to continue promoting deeper understanding of the law's meaningful progress on lowering costs for families, our shared climate goals, and opportunities and concerns for EU producers," according to a White House readout of the meeting. EU officials say the domestic content rules for the EV tax credit would put their manufacturers at a competitive disadvantage and violate World Trade Organization rules.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the Administration has to move forward with the law as written, according to *Bloomberg*. “I’ve heard a lot about the concerns of the Koreans and Europeans about those rules, and we’ll certainly take them into account,” but “the legislation is what it is,” she told reporters. “We have to implement the law that was written.”

**South Korean officials are working** closely with the U.S. government to adjust restrictive regulations on electric vehicles under the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act, according to the county’s ambassador, *CNBC* reported. Ambassador Cho Tae-yong, said Tuesday officials are discussing “several possible options” to correct what the country believes to be unfair policies that eliminated up to \$7,500 of tax credits for EVs produced outside North America. “We are in very intense conversation at the moment,” Cho said Tuesday following the groundbreaking of a \$5.5 billion electric vehicle plant by Hyundai Motor Group near Savannah, Georgia. “There is a great wealth of goodwill and determination to find a solution on both sides.”

### **\*\* Briefs \*\*\***

**BIS – Publishes New *Don’t Let This Happen to You*** In a refresh of an ever popular collection, Commerce’s Office of Export Enforcement published their guidebook to export compliance and enforcement actions, with special chapters for China, Russia and Iran, as well as Antiboycott Enforcement cases. [[Download](#)]

**CBP – Cosmetics Bust** U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at the Port of New Orleans seized nearly 130,000 eye shadow sticks that lacked the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) required ingredients list. The 10-pallet, 5,666 lb. shipment, was manifested as cosmetics and en route to Washington state from Colombia near the end of September. [[announcement](#)]

**CBP – Extends Comments on Forms** updates. This proposed information collection was previously published in the Federal Register in June 2022. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments. All forms can be accessed at:

[https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/publications/forms?title\\_1=339/](https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/publications/forms?title_1=339/)

- **User Fees** (CBP Form 339A, 339C and 339V) [[Notice](#)]
- Declaration for Free **Entry of Unaccompanied Articles** (CBP Form 3299) [[Notice](#)]
- Exportation of **Used Self-Propelled Vehicles** [[Notice](#)]
- Canadian Border **Boat Landing Permit** (CBP Form I-68) [[Notice](#)]
- Application to Establish a **Centralized Examination Station** [[Notice](#)]
- Application-Permit-Special License **Unlading-Lading-Overtime Services** [[87 FR 64806](#)]
- **Country of Origin Marking** Requirements for Containers or Holders [[87 FR 64806](#)]
- Customs and Border Protection **Recordkeeping Requirements** [[87 FR 64805](#)]
- **Delivery Ticket** [[87 FR 64809](#)]
- **Holders or Containers** Which Enter the United States Duty Free [[87 FR 64807](#)]

**UK – OFSI General license for Legal Fees** Payment for legal services to a designated person under an asset freeze has until now required an [OFSI licence](#). General Licence

INT/2022/2252300 means that a UK legal firm or UK Counsel who has provided legal advice to a person designated under either the Russia or Belarus regime, will not have to wait for an OFSI specific licence before they can receive payment from that designated person, provided that the terms of the general licence are met. [[OFSI Post](#)]

**USDA – Trade Mission in East Africa** Deputy Agriculture Secretary Jewel Bronaugh will be leading a trade mission to East Africa beginning Monday. Representatives from 32 agribusiness and farm organizations are participate in the mission to Nairobi and Zanzibar, which is slated to conclude November 4. Last year, the United States exported more than \$60 million worth of agriculture, fish and forestry products to Kenya, and \$6.9 million worth of agricultural products to Tanzania.

**USDA – Sugar Re-Export Program** [request](#) for comments. In early 2023, the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) intends to launch a new data reporting system called Sugar Unified Certification Review, Oversight, Statistics, and Evaluation (SUCROSE) for the Sugar Re-Export Program, which will lead to a slight increase in reporting burden for licensees compared to the current Sugars Users Group Accounting and Reporting System (SUGARS).

**WTO – US Blocks Appellate Panel Again** [*Geneva via WTD*] – For the 59th time, the United States yesterday blocked a request from 127 countries to start the selection process for filling vacancies at the World Trade Organization’s Appellate Body. Washington reportedly said that a true reform discussion should aim to ensure that WTO dispute settlement reflects the real interests of members and not prejudice what a reformed system would look like. Currently, the United States is holding closed-door discussions on reforming the dispute settlement system

Several members privately expressed fears that Washington could fundamentally alter the dispute settlement understanding by deciding disputes based on *positive consensus* where a losing party to a dispute can block the recommendations as used to be the case in the pre-WTO period. Since the creation of the Appellate Body based on the Uruguay Round negotiations, Appellate Body rulings/recommendations were decided on the basis of *negative consensus* under which all members have to agree on rejecting the outcomes.

**FATF – Myanmar Blacklist** The global standards setter for combating financial crime has moved Myanmar onto its list of high-risk jurisdictions, alongside North Korea and Iran, because the country has not fully acted on a plan for tackling anti-money laundering failings. “Given the continued lack of progress and the majority of its action items still not addressed after a year beyond the action plan deadline, the FATF decided that further action was necessary,” the organization [announced](#).

**UK – Glencore Staff Still on the Spit** Britain's Serious Fraud Office could be investigating up to 11 former Glencore employees as part of its bribery probe into the commodities giant, a lawyer for the U.K. anti-fraud watchdog said at a London court ahead of the company's sentencing hearing next month. [[Bloomberg](#)]

**APEC – Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum** trade ministers meet in Detroit next May, the Administration announced. The United States is chairing APEC in 2023, for the first time since 2011. Detroit also will be the location of the second APEC senior officials' meetings in May 2023,

according to the State Department. The first senior officials' meetings will be held in Palm Springs, California in February 2023. Seattle will host the third senior officials' meetings in August. APEC's 21 member economies account for approximately 47 percent of global trade, and the region is the destination for more than 62 percent of US goods exports.

**US-Colombia FTA** US and Colombian officials met last week to begin preparations for the next meeting of the US- Colombia Free Trade Agreement Commission. Deputy US Trade Representative Jayme White and Colombian Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade Luis Felipe Quintero agreed to convene technical committees in areas of mutual interest in the coming months. Technical discussions will continue through the first quarter of 2023, followed by a meeting of the Free Trade Commission to review trade and economic developments related to the bilateral trade deal. The Trade Capacity Building committee will meet for the first time ever to discuss cooperation opportunities for capacity building in order to help Colombian small and medium enterprises enter global supply chains and enhance their participation in bilateral trade.

**Aluminum - EU Sanctions Concerns.** Five European industry associations said last week they had urged European authorities to prevent sanctions, tariffs or boycotts against Russian aluminum that they said could put thousands of companies out of business, according to [Reuters](#). In a joint statement, the associations said they sent a letter to EU authorities and "requested the urgent intervention of the European Commission and of EU member states against threats of bans, high tariffs or sanctions on Russian aluminum which represent an imminent and vital threat to the European aluminum industry."

**Aluminum - Tariffs Bashed** The 10% tariff on aluminum imposed by President Trump and not removed by President Biden is costly to consumers as well as industry and should be removed, the brewers lobby said in a news release last week. Nearly four and a half years since the Section 232 tariffs on aluminum took effect, the U.S. beverage industry alone has paid more than \$1.7 billion in tariffs, the [Beer Institute said](#).

The group said research it commissioned found that between the implementation of Section 232 aluminum tariffs on March 23, 2018, and August 31, 2022, the U.S. beverage industry paid \$1.714 billion in Section 232 tariffs on 8.203 million metric tons of aluminum. Of that amount, the group said, **"only \$120 million (7%) went to the U.S. Treasury. HARBOR Aluminum estimates U.S. rolling mills, U.S. smelters and Canadian smelters received \$1.594 billion (93%) of the total by charging end-users — such as U.S. brewers — a tariff-burdened price** regardless of whether the metal was meant to be tariffed based on its content or origin."

**Singapore PGI Dialogue** U.S. Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade Marisa Lago and Singapore Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Trade and Industry Gabriel Lim held the inaugural *U.S.-Singapore Partnership for Growth and Innovation (PGI)* annual dialogue. The PGI took Assistant Secretary of East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Kritenbrink and Singapore Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs Albert Chua met to co-chair the 5th *United States-Singapore Strategic Partnership Dialogue*.

The PGI promotes commerce and trade in four pillars: advanced manufacturing and supply chain resilience, clean energy and environmental technologies, digital economy and smart cities, and healthcare. Last weeks [outcome statement](#) highlighted the two countries' agreement to jointly promote standards and rules, the Global Cross-Border Privacy Rules (CBPR) Forum, share information on cybersecurity labelling schemes, and digital upskilling initiatives.

**Canada - Handgun Sales Banned** Regulations prohibiting the sale, purchase or transfer of handguns within Canada took effect on Friday, as Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said the measure builds on earlier efforts banning handgun imports. The handgun freeze, announced in May, forbids Canadians from buying, selling or transferring handguns within Canada, and prevents them from bringing newly acquired handguns into the country.

**Firearm manufacturers in the United States exported 44,419 handguns to Canada in 2021**, according to the [National Shooting Sports Foundation](#). First half of the year figures for 2022 show 33,638 handguns exported, a 30.7 percent increase over the same time period in 2021. Canada has banned the sale and ownership of Modern Sporting Rifles, industry's preferred term for Military-Style Assault Weapons.

**Ukraine – Moldova Rail Development** Last week the European Commission together with the European Investment Bank (EIB) launched a pre-feasibility study to assess how to better connect the Ukrainian and Moldovan railway networks with the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T). The rail gauge used in most of the EU is different to the one in Eastern Europe, which makes it difficult to ship goods in both directions. The study is one of the medium- to long-term measures set out in the [Solidarity Lanes action plan](#) and is also closely linked to the Commission's [July 2022 proposal](#) on the extension of the TEN-T to Ukraine and Moldova. This way we are setting the scene for longer-term solutions, supporting Ukraine in its post-war trade and the reconstruction of the country, aiming, in particular, to remove the interoperability gap at borders".

**OFAC – Moldova Sanctions** Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) imposed sanctions on nine individuals and 12 entities, designating former Moldovan government official Vladimir Plahotniuc, a former Moldovan Member of Parliament, Ilan Mironovich Shor, a Moldovan politician previously arrested on money laundering and embezzlement charges related to the 2014 theft of \$1 billion from Moldovan banks. Shor's wife is the Russian pop singer Sara Lvovna Shor, who was decorated by Putin as an honored artist of Russia. Also sanctioned is Igor Yuryevich Chayka, the son of Yuriy Chayka, a member of Russia's Security Council who was designated pursuant to E.O. 14024 on April 6, 2022. Chayka used his father's connections and influence to amass and secure his business empire. Although its efforts to influence Moldova's 2020 and 2021 elections failed, the Kremlin continues to organize efforts to return a pro-Russian government to power. [\[Release\]](#)

**OFAC – More Iran Actions.** OFAC continued its response to the crackdown on protest in Iran with sanctions imposed on leaders of the Revolutionary Guards (IRGC), officials of Sistan and Baluchistan, an eastern province which has seen brutal repression, and wardens and directors of prisons in Iran. [\[Release\]](#).

## \*\*\* Appointments \*\*\*

**Call for Candidates: USMCA Panel for AD/CVD Reviews** USMCA provides for the maintenance of a roster of at least 75 individuals for service on Chapter 10 binational panels, with each USMCA Party selecting at least 25 individuals. A separate five-person panel is formed for each review of a final AD/CVD determination or statutory amendment. Chapter 10 roster members must be citizens of a USMCA Party, must be of good character and of high standing and repute, and are to be chosen strictly on the basis of their objectivity, reliability, sound judgment, and general familiarity with international trade law. Aside from judges, roster members may not be affiliated with the governments of any of the three USMCA Parties. USTR invites eligible individuals who wish to be included on the Chapter 10 roster for the period April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024, to submit applications. In order to be assured of consideration, **USTR must receive your application by November 30, 2022.** [[87 FR 64835](#)]

## \*\*\* Calendar \*\*\*

**Information Systems Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC)** will hold open session (teleconference) on Wednesday, November 2, 2022, at 9 a.m. Registration: e-mail Ms. Yvette Springer [Yvette.Springer@bis.doc.gov](mailto:Yvette.Springer@bis.doc.gov) [[87 FR 63032](#)]

**Defense Trade Advisory Group (DTAG)** will meet in open session from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 9, 2022. The virtual forum will open at 12:00 p.m. Requests for access to include: Name and contact information, including an email address and phone number to [DTAG@state.gov](mailto:DTAG@state.gov) by COB Monday, November 7.

### **Global Year-End Review of Import/Export & Trade Compliance**

**Developments.** November 15 through 17. **Baker McKenzie's** trade compliance lawyers from around the world will review the major global legislative, judicial and administrative activities and trends in export controls, trade sanctions, customs compliance, and import requirements. [[Agenda & Registration](#)]

**WSJ Risk & Compliance Forum** on Nov. 16 Speakers to include **Brian Nelson** from the U.S. Treasury Department and **Robert Silvers** from the Department of Homeland Security, along with multiple experts on corporate risk and compliance. Sign up [[here](#)] for discussions on economic sanctions, forced labor, climate change regulation, whistleblowers and cybersecurity.

**EU Export Control Forum** on Dec. 6. The European Commission and the Czech Presidency of the Council will hold the 2022 Annual Export Control Forum, an opportunity for experts from EU Member States and the European Parliament, industry, academia and civil society to review and discuss the latest export control developments in the EU and globally. The Forum will convene selected panels of experts, to be followed by dialogue with stakeholders. [[Registration](#)]

**\*\* ITA/ITC – AD/CVD Blotter \*\*\***

**USITC - Pacific Island Trade & Investment.** The U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) is undertaking a new factfinding investigation on Pacific Island trade and investment with the United States, including impediments to and opportunities for increased goods and services exports to the United States and U.S. investment in the Pacific Islands.

The investigation, **U.S.-Pacific Islands Trade and Investment: Impediments and Opportunities, Inv. No. 332-593**, was requested by the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR). The USITC expects to submit its report to the USTR by September 29, 2023. The USITC will hold a public hearing in connection with the investigation at 9:30 a.m. on February 14, 2023. A link to the hearing will be posted on the Commission's website

**Oil Country Tubular Goods from Argentina, Mexico, Russia, and South Korea Injures U.S. Industry** The United States International Trade Commission (USITC) determined that a U.S. industry is materially injured by reason of imports of oil country tubular goods from Argentina, Mexico, Russia, and South Korea

As a result of the Commission's October 26 affirmative determinations, Commerce will issue countervailing duty orders on imports of this product from Russia and South Korea, and antidumping duty orders on imports of this product from Argentina, Mexico, and Russia.

The Commission also made negative critical circumstances findings with regard to imports of this product from Mexico and Russia. As a result, these imports will not be subject to retroactive antidumping duties.

The Commission's public report *Oil Country Tubular Goods from Argentina, Mexico, Russia, and South Korea* (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-671-672 and 731-TA-1571-1573 (Final), USITC Publication 5381, October 2022) will contain the views of the Commission and information developed during the investigations and will be available by November 23, 2022

**ITA - Investigations, Orders, or Reviews:**

**1,1,1,2-Tetrafluoroethane from the People's Republic of China** FR Document: [2022-23639](#) Citation: 87 FR 65572 [PDF](#)

**Stainless Steel Flanges from India.** FR Document: [2022-23601](#) Citation: 87 FR 65573. [PDF](#)

**Welded ASTM A-312 Stainless Steel Pipe from the Republic of Korea and Taiwan.** FR Document: [2022-23600](#) Citation: 87 FR 65572. [PDF](#)

**Certain Walk-Behind Lawn Mowers and Parts Thereof from the People's Republic of China** FR Document: [2022-23440](#) Citation: 87 FR 65033 [PDF](#)

**Scope Ruling Applications Filed** FR Document: [2022-23428](#) Citation: 87 FR 65032 [PDF](#)

*DETERMINATION OF SALES AT LESS THAN FAIR VALUE:*

**Certain Superabsorbent Polymers from the Republic of Korea.** FR Document: [2022-23427](#) Citation: 87 FR 65035.

*SUBSIDY PROGRAMS PROVIDED BY COUNTRIES EXPORTING SOFTWOOD LUMBER AND SOFTWOOD LUMBER PRODUCTS TO THE UNITED STATES.* FR Document: [2022-23442](#) Citation: 87 FR 65031. [PDF](#)