

longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

A. by order approve such proposed rule change, or

B. institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the NASD. All submissions should refer to the file number in the caption above and should be submitted by April 8, 1997.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁰

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-6714 Filed 3-17-95; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 2518]

Advisory Committee for Study of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union; Notice of Meeting

The Department of State announces that the Advisory Committee for Study of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union (Title VIII) will convene on April 11, 1997, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in Room 1105, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, DC.

The Advisory Committee will recommend grant recipients for the FY

1997 competition of the Program for Study of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union in connection with the "Research and Training for Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union Act of 1983, as amended." The agenda will include opening statements by the Chairman and members of the Committee and, within the Committee, discussion, approval, and recommendation that the Department of State negotiate grant agreements with certain "national organizations with an interest and expertise in conducting research and training concerning the countries of Eastern Europe and the independent states of the former Soviet Union," based on the guidelines contained in the call for applications published in the Federal Register on October 4, 1996. Following committee deliberation, interested members of the public may make oral statements concerning the Title VIII program in general.

This meeting will be open to the public; however, attendance will be limited to the seating available. Entry into the Department of State building is controlled and must be arranged in advance of the meeting. Those planning to attend should notify Joanne Bramble, INR/RES, U.S. Department of State, (202) 736-4572, by April 8, 1997, providing their date of birth, Social Security number, and any requirements for special needs. All attendees must use the 2201 C Street, NW, entrance to the building. Visitors who arrive without prior notification and without a photo ID will not be admitted.

Dated: February 11, 1997.

Kenneth E. Roberts,

Executive Director, Advisory Committee for Study of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union.

[FR Doc. 97-6739 Filed 3-17-97; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Trade Policy Staff Committee: Request for Comments Concerning Financial Services Negotiations Under the General Agreement on Trade in Services of the World Trade Organization

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) is soliciting public comments on the requests made to U.S. negotiating partners in the negotiations on financial services under

the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). The GATS is one of the Uruguay Round agreements administered by the World Trade Organization (WTO). Interested persons are invited to submit their comments on market-opening commitments that should be sought in the financial services sector by April 17, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peter Collins, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Services and Investment, Office of the United States Trade Representative, (202) 395-7271 (for insurance issues and for general GATS issues), or Matthew Hennesy, Director, Office of Financial Services Negotiations, U.S. Department of the Treasury, (202) 622-0151 (for financial services other than insurance).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Negotiations on financial services were extended for six months at the end of the Uruguay Round to allow for further progress. The current interim financial services agreement of July 1995 will expire at the end of 1997, when WTO Members have a 60-day period in which to modify (or withdraw) their commitments. The negotiations will formally commence in April, at the first meeting of the WTO Committee on Trade in Financial Services, the negotiating body.

The United States is a full participant in the interim arrangement and is entitled to all market access and national treatment commitments scheduled by other participants. In its schedule of commitments, in force since June 30, 1995, the U.S. has committed to protect the existing investments of foreign financial services providers in the United States. The U.S. took an MFN exemption, and thus reserved the right to provide differing levels of treatment, with respect to expansion and new activities by these financial services providers, and or with respect to new entrants to the U.S. financial market.

The United States is in the process of preparing requests for market-opening commitments from other countries participating in the negotiations. These requests may be submitted as early as May 1997.

The U.S. objective in the negotiations is to obtain significantly improved commitments that provide financial services suppliers substantially full market access and national treatment on a non-discriminatory basis. Interested persons are invited to submit their comments on commitments the United States should seek in insurance, banking, securities, and other financial services.

¹⁰ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12) (1989).