

international competitive position and export potential of United States products and services. Because submissions will be placed in a public file, open to public inspection at USTR, business-confidential information should not be submitted.

Interested persons must provide twenty copies of any submission to Sybia Harrison, staff assistant to the Section 301 Committee, Room 222, 600 17th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20508, no later than 12:00 noon on Thursday, July 10, 1997.

Public Inspection of Submissions

Submissions will be placed in a public file, open for inspection at the USTR Reading Room, in Room 101, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. An appointment to review the file may be made by calling Brenda Webb, (202) 395-6186. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Irving A. Williamson,

Chairman, Section 301 Committee.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket No. 301-111]

Section 302 Investigation: Certain Subsidies Affecting Access to the European Communities' Market for Modified Starch

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Trade Representative (USTR), following consultations with the petitioners, intends to consult with the European Communities (EC) regarding wheat gluten exports from the EC to the United States. These consultations will be conducted pursuant to a bilateral agreement with the EC on grains signed on July 22, 1996 (Grains Agreement). Pending the outcome of these consultations, the USTR will not pursue consultations under the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements and has terminated the investigation initiated on March 8, 1997, under section 302(a) of the Trade Act of 1974.

DATES: This investigation was terminated on June 6, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20508.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ronald K. Lorentzen, Office of WTO and Multilateral Affairs, (202) 395-3063; William D. Hunter, Office of the General Counsel, (202) 395-9418; or Robert Cummings, Office of Agricultural Affairs, (202) 395-6127.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 22, 1997, the U.S. Wheat Gluten Industry Council filed a petition pursuant to section 302(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (Trade Act) (19 U.S.C. 2412(a)) alleging that certain subsidy schemes of the EC constitute acts, policies and practices that violate, or are inconsistent with and otherwise deny benefits to the United States under, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 and the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures. On March 8, 1997, the Acting USTR initiated an investigation under section 302 with respect to the EC starch production refund program to determine whether subsidies granted under that program are causing or threatening to cause serious prejudice to U.S. interests with respect to U.S. exports of modified starch to the EC, or are nullifying or impairing benefits accruing to the United States under the WTO agreements. (62 F.R. 12264). The Acting USTR also requested public comment on the matter under investigation. Pursuant to section 303(b)(1)(A) of the Trade Act, the Acting USTR decided to delay requesting consultations with the EC regarding the EC starch production refund program for up to 90 days for the purpose of verifying and improving the petition to ensure an adequate basis for consultations with the EC.

Investigation and Consultations

Having reviewed the information obtained during the investigation, including written comments provided by interested persons, the USTR continues to have serious concerns about the effects on U.S. wheat gluten and wheat starch producers of EC policies that insulate European wheat starch and gluten producers from world competition and that subsidize European production and exports. Therefore, having consulted with the petitioner, the USTR has determined to consult with the EC under provisions of the Grains Agreement, and that, at this time, consultations will not be pursued under the WTO agreements. This decision will be reexamined at a later date, pending the outcome of consultations under the Grains Agreement. In light of the foregoing, the USTR is terminating the investigation under section 302.

USTR will continue to work with the petitioner in developing information and analysis that may form the basis for further action, including possible action under section 301. In this regard, USTR, in response to a request by the petitioner, has initiated the information gathering procedures of section 308 of the Trade Act, and that process remains ongoing.

Irving A. Williamson,

Chairman, Section 301 Committee.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Task Force on Assistance to Families in Aviation Disasters; Open Meeting

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Task Force on Assistance to Families in Aviation Disasters will hold a meeting to discuss assistance to families of passengers involved in aviation accidents. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 9, and Thursday, July 10, 1997, from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm each day.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place in Room 2230 of Department of Transportation (DOT) Headquarters, 400 7th Street, SW, Washington, D.C.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven R. Okun, Task Force Executive Director, telephone 202-366-4702, or Marc C. Owen, Task Force Staff Director, mailing address, 400 7th Street SW, Room 5424, Washington, D.C. 20590, telecopier 202-366-7147, and telephone 202-366-6823.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. Appendix), DOT gives notice of a meeting of the Task Force on Assistance to Families in Aviation Disasters (Task Force). The Task Force was established by the Aviation Disaster Family Assistance Act of 1996 to develop recommendations on ways to improve the treatment of families of passengers involved in aviation accidents. One purpose of the meeting on July 9 is to take public testimony on issues within the Charter of the Task Force. Members of the public wishing to testify should submit their request to appear before the Task Force and a copy of their comments to Marc Owen by July 1, 1997. Oral testimony must be no more