

Brickenkamp, 6401 Security Blvd, 1-A-21 Operations Bldg., Baltimore, MD 21235.

Dated: June 3, 1998.

Frederick W. Brickenkamp,

Reports Clearance Officer, Social Security Administration.

[FR Doc. 98-15298 Filed 6-8-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4190-29-M

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice No. 2836]

United States International Telecommunications Advisory Committee; Radiocommunication Sector; Study Group 4—Fixed Satellite Service; Meeting Notice

The Department of State announces that the United States International Telecommunications Advisory Committee (ITAC),

Radiocommunication Sector Study Group 4—Fixed Satellite Service will meet on June 11, 1998 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., in Room 5951 at the Department of State, 2201 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20520.

Study Group 4 studies and develops recommendations concerning systems and networks for fixed satellites and inter-satellite links in the fixed satellite service including associated tracking, telemetry and telecommand functions. This meeting will review Study Group 4 international activities and began preparations for the October meeting of Study Group 4.

Members of the General Public may attend these meetings and join in the discussions, subject to the instructions of the Chairman, David Weinreich.

Note: If you wish to attend please send a fax to 202-647-7407 not later than 24 hours before the scheduled meeting. On this fax, please include subject meeting, your name, social security number, and date of birth. One of the following valid photo ID's will be required for admittance: U.S. driver's license with your picture on it, U.S. passport, U.S. Government ID (company ID's are no longer accepted by Diplomatic Security). Enter from the "C" Street Main Lobby.

Dated: May 28, 1998.

John T. Gilsenan,

Chairman, U.S. ITAC for ITU-Radiocommunication Sector.

[FR Doc. 98-15350 Filed 6-4-98; 3:56 pm]

BILLING CODE 4710-07-M

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice No. 2837]

United States International Telecommunications Advisory Committee; Radiocommunication Sector; Study Group 8—Mobile Services; Meeting Notice

The Department of State announces that the United States International Telecommunications Advisory Committee (ITAC), Radiocommunication Sector Study Group 8—Mobile Services will meet on June 16, 1998 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Room 1207 at the Department of State, 2201 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20520.

Study Group 8 studies and develops recommendations concerning technical and operating characteristics of mobile, radiodetermination, amateur and related satellite services. This meeting will prepare for the July 7-8, 1998 international meeting of Study Group 8.

Members of the General Public may attend these meetings and join in the discussions, subject to the instructions of the Chairman, John T. Gilsenan.

Note: If you wish to attend please send a fax to 202-647-7404 not later than 24 hours before the scheduled meeting. On this fax, please include subject meeting, your name, social security number, and date of birth. One of the following valid photo ID's will be required for admittance: U.S. driver's license with your picture on it, U.S. passport, U.S. Government ID (company ID's are no longer accepted by Diplomatic Security). Enter from the "C" Street Main Lobby.

Dated: May 28, 1998.

John T. Gilsenan,

Chairman, U.S. ITAC for ITU-Radiocommunications Sector.

[FR Doc. 98-15351 Filed 6-4-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-07-M

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

United States-European Union Transatlantic Economic Partnership

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice and Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to their recently-announced Transatlantic Economic Partnership (TEP) initiative, the United States and the European Union (EU) have proposed: to negotiate the reduction of barriers to U.S.-EU trade in goods, services, and agricultural products; cooperate in promoting international efforts to open markets

around the world, and encourage the bilateral exchange of views between governments, business, non-governmental organizations on trade, investment, and related issues. The Office of the United States Trade Representative seeks public comment on the initiative, including possible areas for negotiation and cooperation, and on procedures to obtain advice from interested parties.

DATES: Comments should be submitted no later than July 6, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted to Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, TPSC, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Room 503, 600 17th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20508.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ralph Ives, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Europe and the Mediterranean or Mark Mowrey, Director for European Regional Affairs (202) 395-4620.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 18, 1998, President Clinton and his EU counterparts issued a joint statement announcing the TEP (reprinted following this notice). The TEP will have three components: (1) Negotiations to reduce barriers to bilateral trade in services, industrial goods, and agricultural products; (2) cooperative efforts in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other international organizations to reduce or eliminate barriers that hinder international trade and capital flows and to address other related issues; (3) and efforts to enhance the transatlantic dialogue between business, non-governmental organizations, and governments on trade and investment matters.

The bilateral trade and investment component of the TEP will address trade barriers, particularly unnecessary regulatory impediments, that hinder transatlantic trade in such sectors as electronic commerce, services, agricultural products, government procurement, and intellectual property rights (IPR), while seeking to advance shared labor and environmental values. U.S. and EU efforts to increase their cooperative efforts in appropriate multilateral organizations will encompass such areas as services, agricultural goods, industrial tariffs, IPR, trade facilitation, electronic commerce, government procurement, trade and the environment, and support for the observance of internationally-recognized core labor standards.

The TEP will be implemented in a transparent manner that places a high priority on obtaining the views of business, labor, environmental, and

other interested non-governmental constituencies. As a first step toward implementing the TEP, U.S. agencies will work with the EU to develop an action plan and timetable for achieving results.

Public Comments

In conformity with the regulations of the Trade Policy Staff Committee ("TPSC") (15 CFR Part 2003), the Chairman of the TPSC invites written comments from interested persons on the scope of this initiative, proposals for negotiation and/or cooperation, and procedures to enhance transparency and non-government participation in the TEP. Comments are invited in particular on: (a) Specific initiatives to reduce barriers to bilateral trade and investment in the sectors and subject areas included in the TEP; (b) specific proposals for enhanced bilateral cooperation in the WTO or other appropriate international organizations, as described in the joint statement, regarding trade in services, IPR, agricultural products, electronic commerce, trade and the environment, and labor issues; (c) the economic benefits and costs to U.S. producers and consumers of trade and investment barrier reduction under the TEP; (d) specific proposals for procedures to facilitate the exchange of views between business and other non-governmental constituencies and the governments concerned regarding matters subject to the TEP; and (e) other aspects of the initiative, including its labor, environmental, health, and safety aspects.

Interested persons may submit written comments, in five (5) typed copies, as soon as possible but no later than July 6, 1998. Comments should state clearly the position taken and should describe the specific information (including data, if possible) supporting that position. Any business confidential material must be clearly marked as such on the cover page (or letter) and succeeding pages and must be accompanied by non-confidential summary thereof.

Non-confidential submissions will be available for public inspection at the USTR Reading Room, Room 101, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 Seventeenth Street, NW, Washington, DC. An appointment to review the file may be made by calling Brenda Webb at (202) 395-6186. The reading room is open to the public by appointment only from 9:30 a.m. to

12:00 noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Frederick L. Montgomery,
Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

EU/US Summit, London 18 May 1998

The Transatlantic Economic Partnership

1. The transatlantic economic relationship is underpinned by the most important trade and economic links in the world. In order to strengthen further these links to the benefit of our people and firms, we have decided to build on the New Transatlantic Agenda signed in Madrid in 1995. This initiative will reinforce our cooperation and joint leadership in international economic relations and fora.

2. The European Union (EU) and the United States (US) share the world's largest and most complex economic relationship. Two-way trade represents around one-fifth of each other's total for goods and one-third for services. Furthermore the US and EU each account for approximately half of the other's foreign direct investment abroad. The prosperity of our populations is intertwined to an ever-increasing extent; and as the European Union has grown and deepened its integration, this process has accelerated.

3. We have a fundamental interest in a dynamic, respected system of international trade rules. The size of our economies and the volume of transatlantic trade and investment have a significant effect on this system. Past multilateral efforts to open markets have often been led by the US and EU. As we look ahead, it will be important for the US and EU to demonstrate our support for the further opening of markets world-wide.

4. In 1995, we committed ourselves to expand and deepen cooperation on economic issues through the New Transatlantic Agenda (NTA) by taking concrete steps to strengthen the multilateral trading system and enhance the transatlantic economic relationship. We are pleased with the progress of the NTA so far. Under the NTA, we have laid the basis for multilateral trade negotiations and have finalized agreements on mutual recognition of testing and conformity assessment, customs co-operation and equivalency in veterinary standards and procedures. And in December 1997 we committed ourselves to enhance our regulatory cooperation while facilitating consumer protection.

5. We now believe the time has come to build on the NTA's highly significant achievements. Accordingly, we agree to reinforce our close relationship through an initiative involving the intensification and extension of multilateral and bilateral cooperation and common actions in the field of trade and investment. Our reinforced partnership can be instrumental in setting the agenda for a more open and accessible world trading system and at the same time can greatly improve the economic relationship between the EU and US, reduce frictions between us, and promote prosperity on both sides of the Atlantic.

6. The partnership will encompass multilateral and bilateral elements as outlined below.

Multilateral Action

7. In keeping with our leading role in the world trade system, we reaffirm our determination to maintain open markets, resist protectionism and sustain the momentum of liberalization. The most effective means of maintaining open markets and promoting the expansion of trade is the continued development and strengthening of the multilateral system. The EU and US will give priority to pursuing their objectives together with other trading partners through the World Trade Organization. Today's WTO Ministerial Conference will play an important role in carrying forward the implementation of the WTO built-in agenda and in laying the groundwork for further multilateral negotiations leading to broad-based liberalization.

8. As part of our effort to strengthen further the multilateral system and seek wider trade liberalization, our shared objectives are:

(a) The full implementation of WTO commitments and respect for dispute settlement obligations;

(b) Ambitious objectives and offers for the liberalization of services in forthcoming WTO negotiations;

(c) The multilateral negotiations for the continuation of the reform process in agriculture in full conformity with Article 20 of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture;

(d) The intensification of forward-looking work in the WTO on trade facilitation;

(e) A broad WTO work programme for the reduction on an MFN basis of industrial tariffs and the exploration of the feasibility of their progressive elimination within a timescale to be agreed;

(f) The adoption of common positions on the respect for and further improvement of the intellectual property rights identified in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS);

(g) The development of common approaches in appropriate multilateral fora on investment competition, public procurement and trade and the environment;

(h) Cooperation on the accession of new members and the better integration of LLDCs in the multilateral trading system;

(i) The development of a comprehensive work programme for electronic commerce in the WTO covering trade-related aspects and will continue the current practice of not imposing customs duties on electronics transmissions;

(j) Support for the observance of internationally recognized core labour standards and the goal of reaching agreement on an ILO declaration and follow-up mechanism, noting the important role of the social partners in the process, and rejecting use of labour standards for protectionist purposes; and support for the continuation of the dialogue on measures in the relevant fora to combat corruption.

Bilateral Action

9. The EU and the US will intensify their efforts to reduce or eliminate barriers to trade and investment between them. This will be done in ways which are in full conformity with their international and, in particular, WTO obligations and supportive of the primary goal of multilateral liberalization

making as much progress as possible before 2000. Such efforts will expand transatlantic commerce and reduce frictions, benefiting both our peoples. We will maintain high standards of safety and protection for health, consumers and the environment. Our partnership will not create new barriers to third countries.

10. We will focus on those barriers that really matter to transatlantic trade and investment and to this end we will aim in particular at the removal of those regulatory barriers that hinder market opportunities, both for goods and for services. We will concentrate specifically on the following:

(a) Technical barriers to trade in goods, reinforcing our efforts for the elimination or substantial lowering of the remaining barriers, while further pursuing our commitment to high health, safety and environmental standards;

(b) Services, with the aim of substantially improving opportunities for market opening to the benefit of consumers and small, medium and larger enterprises;

(c) Agriculture, with the objective of strengthening our regulatory cooperation in the field of human, plant and animal health issues, including biotechnology, while recognizing the importance of continuing to improve our respective regulatory processes and of improving our scientific cooperation;

(d) Government procurement to increase and facilitate access to public procurement markets, including by enhancing the compatibility of electronic procurement information and government contracting systems;

(e) Intellectual property as identified in the Agreement on TRIPS in order to improve the protection of rightholders and to reduce costs.

11. We will build on efforts already underway for goods but extending to services, to cover as wide a range of barriers and sectors as possible identifying the priorities both for the near and longer term. Instruments to achieve this will be:

(a) The mutual recognition of testing and approval procedures, of equivalence of technical and other requirements and, in certain areas, where appropriate, the progressive alignment or, where possible, the adoption of the same standards, regulatory requirements and procedures adopting internationally agreed standards where possible;

(b) The intensification of the dialogue between scientific and other expert advisers, standard setting bodies, and regulatory agencies;

(c) High degree of transparency and consultation with all interested parties.

12. Within the framework of our bilateral partnership we will seek to advance our shared values in the areas of labour and environment.

13. We will explore the scope for further cooperative dialogue and greater compatibility of procedures between our competition authorities.

14. We will maintain and extend our work on electronic commerce as set out in the joint statement at the Washington Summit of December 1997.

Extending the Transatlantic Dialogue

15. The EU and US recall the imaginative and practical approach of EU and US business in the Transatlantic Business Dialogue which has contributed directly to many of the NTA's successes, such as the Mutual Recognition Agreement. We urge the TABD to continue and extend its valuable contribution to the process of removing barriers to trade and investment. We reaffirm our commitment in the New Transatlantic Agenda to promote dialogue between representatives of consumer and labour interests as illustrated by the helpful second meeting of the Transatlantic Labour Dialogue held in London in April. We invite interested non-governmental organizations to participate and extend this dialogue on consumer protection, scientific, safety and environmental issues relevant to international trade as a constructive contribution to policy making.

16. In line with our commitment to encourage greater transparency in the work of international trade bodies, we will seek to facilitate the closer association of business and other interested non-governmental constituencies with the activities of the WTO and other international trade organizations, as well as with our bilateral activities.

17. Within the framework provided by the NTA we will establish a dynamic process yielding concrete results with the intention of applying them, where agreed, at the relevant levels of government in the EU and the US; and to this end we will pursue the multilateral and bilateral actions set out in this statement as follows:

(a) Establish as soon as possible a Plan identifying areas for common actions both bilaterally and multilaterally, with a timetable for achieving specific results;

(b) Take all necessary steps to allow the early implementation of this Plan, including any necessary authority to start negotiations.¹

[FR Doc. 98-15290 Filed 6-8-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

[USCG 1998-3927]

Chemical Transportation Advisory Committee, Subcommittee on Proper Cargo Names

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Chemical Transportation Advisory Committee's (CTAC) Subcommittee on Proper Cargo Names (PCN) will meet to discuss various issues relating to use of proper cargo names for the marine transportation of hazardous materials in bulk. The meeting will be open to the public.

DATES: The PCN Subcommittee will meet on Tuesday, June 23, 1998, from 9

¹ Nothing in this text constitutes an EU negotiating mandate.

a.m. to 4 p.m. The meeting may end early if all business is finished. Written material and requests to make oral presentations should reach the U.S. Coast Guard on or before June 19, 1998. Requests to have a copy of your material distributed to each member of the CTAC Subcommittee should reach the U.S. Coast Guard on or before June 19, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The Subcommittee will meet at the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), ABS Plaza, 16855 Northchase Drive, Houston, TX 77060-6008. Point of contact: Mr. Philip G. Rynn; tel.: 281-877-6415; fax.: 281-877-6795. Send written material and requests to make oral presentations to Mr. Curtis Payne, Commandant (G-MSO-3), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001. This notice is available on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

For questions on this notice, contact Mr. Curtis Payne, telephone 202-267-1577, fax 202-267-4570. For questions on this docket, contact Ms. Carol Kelly, Coast Guard Dockets Team Leader, or Ms. Paulette Twine, Chief, Documentary Services Division, U.S. Department of Transportation, 202-366-9329.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice of these meetings is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

Meeting Agenda

Subcommittee on Proper Cargo Names (PCN). The agenda includes the following:

(1) Discussion of the industry's cargo naming/identification processes: manufacturers, transfer facilities, tank barge industry, tankship industry.

(2) Root cause analysis of proper cargo name selection.

Procedural

The meeting is open to the public. Please note that the meeting may end early if all business is finished. At the Chair's discretion, members of the public may make oral presentations during the meeting. If you would like to make an oral presentation at the meeting, please notify Mr. Payne no later than June 19, 1998. Written material for distribution at the meeting should reach the U.S. Coast Guard no later than June 19, 1998. If you would like a copy of your material distributed to each member of the Subcommittee in advance of the meeting, please submit 25 copies to Mr. Payne no later than June 19, 1998 or make other arrangements with Mr. Payne.