

- Identifying the environment that will allow electronic commerce to flourish;
- Discussing infrastructure questions; and
- Identifying how electronic commerce can facilitate the operation of trade obligations.

Joint Committee Update: The Joint Committee is not a negotiating group; rather it is examining a broad range of electronic commerce issues relevant to identifying the environment that will extend the advantages of e-commerce throughout the Western Hemisphere, in part by keeping itself apprised of related developments in other international fora.

A meeting of Joint Committee government representatives addressed organizational issues in Miami in October 1998. They scheduled four additional meetings in Miami for 1999. At the meeting on January 6-8, the topics covered included small business, smaller economies, governments as model users, business-to-business applications, raising skills and awareness, network access and reliability and standards for forms of transmissions. The meeting on April 24-26 covered trade, tax and selected legal issues related to electronic commerce and included expert presentations by World Trade Organization (WTO) personnel and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) personnel. The meeting on June 14-16 is scheduled to discuss issues related to jurisdiction and contract law, privacy, security and reliability, authentication, and consumer protection, and to include expert presentations by Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) personnel and United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) personnel. The fourth meeting on August 30-September 1, will focus on other issues and on the report to Ministers.

Joint Committee Private Sector Representation: FTAA governments decided that the Joint Committee would include private sector representatives, which is consistent with President Clinton's principle that the private sector should take the lead in developing the rules for global electronic commerce. FTAA Vice Ministers for trade determined that individual governments would identify private sector participants, with a view toward balanced hemispheric representation in terms of geography and electronic commerce issue expertise. On August 6, 1998, a **Federal Register** notice (63 FR 42090) was

published inviting expressions of interest and qualifications to participate in the work of the Joint Committee.

Based on responses, U.S. private sector representatives were selected to reflect a balance of interests and electronic commerce issue expertise. At that time, however, no submissions were received from interested consumer groups. The TPSC is now seeking to expand private sector participation on the Joint Committee to include an expert on consumer issues related to electronic commerce.

#### Public Comments

In order to assist the TPSC in identifying a U.S. private sector expert on consumer issues related to electronic commerce, which are scheduled to be discussed at the June 14-16 meeting, members of the public are invited to submit written notice of their interest and describe their qualifications. Qualifications of interest include: demonstrated expertise in one or more aspects of electronic commerce and consumer protection; an ability and willingness to broadly solicit views from and disseminate information to consumer groups; and familiarity with U.S. and foreign trade and investment policies and obligations. Knowledge of the Western Hemisphere, including established contacts with foreign private sector interests in the region, would be helpful.

Those persons wishing to make written submissions should provide twenty (20) typed copies (in English) no later than noon, Friday, May 28, 1999 to Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Room 122, 600 17th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20508.

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

**Frederick L. Montgomery,**

*Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Office of the Secretary

#### Aviation Proceedings, Agreements Filed During the Week Ending May 7, 1999

The following Agreements were filed with the Department of Transportation under the provisions of 49 U.S.C. sections 412 and 414. Answers may be filed within 21 days of date of filing.

*Docket Number:* OST-99-5618.

*Date Filed:* May 3, 1999.

*Parties:* Members of the International Air Transport Association.

#### *Subject:*

PTC2 EUR 0246 dated 4 May 1999

PTC2 EUR-ME 0075 dated 4 May 1999

Mail Vote 001-Resolution 010g

TC2 Special Passenger Amending Resolution from Malta

to Europe and from Malta to Middle East

Intended effective date: 01 June 1999.

*Docket Number:* OST-99-5665.

*Date Filed:* May 7, 1999.

*Parties:* Members of the International Air Transport Association.

#### *Subject:*

PTC2 EUR 0248 dated 4 May 1999 r1-r6

PTC2 EUR 0249 dated 7 May 1999 r7-r18

PTC2 EUR 0250 dated 7 May 1999 r19

PTC2 EUR 0251 dated 7 May 1999 r20

PTC2 EUR 0252 dated 7 May 1999 r21

TC2 Within Europe Expedited Resolutions r1-r21

Minutes-PTC2 EUR 0247 dated 4 May 1999

Tables-None

Intended effective dates: 14 June through 1 November 1999.

*Docket Number:* OST-99-5668.

*Date Filed:* May 7, 1999.

*Parties:* Members of the International Air Transport Association.

#### *Subject:*

PTC3 0333 dated 11 May 1999

Mail Vote 004-Resolution 010j

TC3 Special Passenger Amending Resolution between Korea

and Japan (Seoul/Fukushima)

Intended effective date: 1 June 1999.

**Dorothy W. Walker,**

*Federal Register Liaison.*

[FR Doc. 99-12323 Filed 5-14-99; 8:45 am]

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