

Office of Management and Budget,
OIRA, Attn: Desk Officer for SSA,
New Executive Office Building, Room
10235, 725 17th St., NW, Washington,
D.C. 20503

Dated: August 8, 2000.

Frederick W. Brickenkamp,

*Reports Clearance Officer, Social Security
Administration.*

[FR Doc. 00-20470 Filed 8-11-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3383]

Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition Determinations: "Byzantine Art"

DEPARTMENT: Department of State.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following determinations: Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985, 22 U.S.C. 2459), the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2681, *et seq.*), Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999, and Delegation of Authority of October 19, 1999, as amended, I hereby determine that the objects to be included in the exhibition "Byzantine Art" imported from abroad for the temporary exhibition without profit within the United States, are of cultural significance. These objects are imported pursuant to loan agreements with foreign lenders. The loan will be for a period of one year, with the potential for renewal annually, beginning on November 14, 2000 through December 2004. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the exhibit objects at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY is in the national interest. Public Notice of these Determinations is ordered to be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, including a list of exhibit objects, contact Jacqueline Caldwell, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State (telephone: 202/619-6982). The address is U.S. Department of State, SA-44; 301-4th Street, SW., Room 700, Washington, DC 20547-0001.

Dated: August 4, 2000.

William B. Bader,

*Assistant Secretary for Educational and
Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 00-20542 Filed 8-11-00; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Request for Public Comment Regarding the United States-European Union Transatlantic Economic Partnership as It Concerns Services Trade

AGENCY: Office of the United States
Trade Representative (USTR).

ACTION: Notice and Request for
Comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) seeks written public comments on general U.S. negotiating objectives as they concern the services trade component of the Transatlantic Economic Partnership (TEP). Under the TEP, the United States and the European Union (EU) have undertaken to facilitate opportunities for dialogue between regulators and to explore whether it is possible to develop mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) or other regulatory cooperation for certain insurance, architectural, and engineering services, while maintaining high standards of safety and protection for consumers. Comments received will be considered by USTR in its further work to formulate objectives and priorities for these deliberations.

DATES: Public comments should be submitted no later than September 11, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Room 122, 600 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20508.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bernard Ascher (architectural and engineering services) or Ann Main (insurance or related services), Offices of Services, Investment, and Intellectual Property, (202) 395-4510. Procedural inquiries concerning the public comment process should be directed to Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the United States Trade Representative, (202) 395-3475.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 18, 1998, President Clinton and his EU counterparts issued a joint statement announcing the Transatlantic Economic Partnership (TEP) initiative. [**Federal Register** notice published on, June 9, 1998, describes the TEP.] On November 9, 1998, the United States and the EU agreed on a joint "Action Plan," as called for in the May 18 TEP statement. A copy of the Action Plan is available on USTR's website (www.ustr.gov) or upon request from Ms. Gloria Blue. On

June 9 and December 9, 1998, USTR published **Federal Register** Notices requesting public comment on the TEP. This notice is an additional request for information, focusing on the TEP as it relates to trade in services.

In the TEP initiative, the United States and the EU have undertaken to facilitate opportunities for dialogue between regulators and to explore whether it is possible to develop mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) or other regulatory cooperation for certain insurance, architectural, and engineering services, while maintaining high standards of safety and protection for consumers. Regulatory authorities are full participants in the process.

Architectural and Engineering Services: U.S. trade agreements, such as the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement and the North American Free Trade Agreement, provide a framework for the competent authorities and professional organizations to negotiate mutual recognition agreements with their counterparts in other countries. Mutual recognition in the architectural and engineering services sector would enable those licensed in one country to be licensed or recognized to practice in another country. U.S. officials are working with a number of national engineering and architectural organizations to develop negotiating approaches that could lead toward mutual recognition of U.S. and EU architects and engineers, while maintaining high quality standards of safety and protection of consumers. Licensed practitioners must meet the requirements of the jurisdiction in which they practice and must comply with all applicable laws and regulations of the host jurisdiction.

Insurance and Related Services: Regarding insurance services, U.S. officials are working with state insurance regulators to determine whether it is possible to develop mutual recognition or other regulatory cooperation for certain insurance sectors (*e.g.*, commercial lines, reinsurance, agency/brokers). Private pension fund management, which is regulated at the federal level in the United States, is also a subject of consideration. Mutual recognition or other regulatory cooperation for insurance and related services could take various forms, including the possibility of greater uniformity of regulatory practices, or for regulators in one country to recognize the other country's regulatory practices as being sufficient for home country requirements.

Public Comments: All written comments should be addressed to Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy