

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4413]

Defense Trade Advisory Group; Notice of Membership

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Notice.

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs' Defense Trade Advisory Group (DTAG) is accepting membership applications.

The DTAG was established as a continuing committee under the authority of 22 U.S.C. 2656 and the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. I *et seq.* ("FACA").

The purpose of the DTAG is to provide the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs with a formal channel for regular consultation and coordination with U.S. private sector defense exporters and defense trade specialists on issues involving U.S. laws, policies, and regulations for munitions exports. The DTAG advises the Bureau on its support for and regulation of defense trade to help ensure that impediments to legitimate exports are reduced while the foreign policy and national security interests of the U.S. continue to be protected and advanced in accordance with the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended. Major topics addressed by the DTAG include (a) policy issues on commercial defense trade and technology transfer; (b) regulatory and licensing procedures applicable to defense articles, services, and technical data; (c) technical issues involving the U.S. Munitions List (USML); and (d) questions relating to actions designed to carry out the AECA and International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR).

Members are appointed by the Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs on the basis of individual substantive and technical expertise and qualifications, and are drawn from a representative cross-section of U.S. defense industry, association, academic, and foundation personnel, including appropriate technical and military experts. All DTAG members shall be aware of the Department of State's mandate that arms transfers must further U.S. national security and foreign policy interests. DTAG members also shall be versed in the complexity of commercial defense trade and industrial competitiveness, and all members must be able to advise the Bureau on these matters. Further, DTAG members will not be advocates for or consider themselves as representatives on behalf of their employers or organizations when

serving as a member of the DTAG. While members are expected to use their expertise and provide candid advice, national security and foreign policy interests of the U.S. shall be the basis for all policy and technical recommendations.

DTAG members' responsibilities include:

- Service for a consecutive two-year term which may be renewed or terminated at the discretion of the Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs (Membership shall automatically terminate for members who fail to attend three consecutive DTAG plenary meetings, which ideally are held bi-annually).
- Making recommendations in accordance with the DTAG Charter and the FACA.
- Making policy and technical recommendations within the scope of the U.S. commercial export control regime as mandated in the AECA, the ITAR, and appropriate directives.

Please note that DTAG members may not be reimbursed for travel, per diem, and other expenses incurred in connection with their duties as DTAG members.

How to apply: Applications in response to this notice must contain the following information: (1) Name of applicant; (2) affirmation of U.S. citizenship; (3) organizational affiliation and title, as appropriate; (4) mailing address; (5) work telephone number; (6) e-mail address; (7) résumé; (8) summary of qualifications for DTAG membership.

This information may be provided via two methods:

- E-mailed to the following address: SweeneyMF@state.gov. In the subject field, please write, "DTAG Application."
- Sent in hardcopy to the following address: Mary F. Sweeney, PM/DTCM, SA-1, 12th Floor, Directorate of Defense Trade Controls, Bureau of Political Military Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC 20522-0112.

All applications must be postmarked by October 31, 2003. Also, current DTAG members need not submit an application package in order to be considered for membership in 2004-2006.

Michael T. Dixon,

Designated Federal Official, Defense Trade Advisory Group, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 03-24769 Filed 9-29-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-25-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE**Delegation of Authority 261; Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000**

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (the Convention) and the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (the IAA) give the Secretary of State authority to serve as head of the United States Central Authority and to perform all functions related to IAA and Convention implementation. The functions of the Secretary of State under the Convention, and the IAA that may be delegated by law, are hereby delegated to the Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs to ensure that she or he has the necessary and appropriate authority to perform those functions vested in the Secretary of State by the Convention, the IAA, or any implementing regulations.

1. General Delegation

(a) By virtue of the authority vested in me as Secretary of State and except as provided in section 1(b), I hereby delegate to the Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs, to the extent authorized by law, all functions relating to intercountry adoptions vested in the Secretary of State or the head of agency by any act, order, determination, delegation of authority, regulation, or executive order now or hereafter issued, including the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000, Public Law 106-279 (October 6, 2000) (hereinafter referred to as the "IAA").

(b) There are hereby excluded from the authorities delegated under section 1(a) the functions conferred by section 403(b) of the IAA, relating to the establishment of fees for certain intercountry adoption services undertaken by the Department of State, which functions are hereby delegated to the Under Secretary for Management.

(c) Nothing in this delegation shall be construed to delegate the authority vested in the Secretary of State by section 502(b) of the IAA, relating to case-by-case waivers in individual adoption cases of the requirements of the IAA or regulations issued under the IAA, or of any other authority that by law may not be delegated.

2. Technical Provisions

(a) Notwithstanding this delegation of authority, the Secretary of State, the Deputy Secretary of State, and the Under Secretary of State for

Management may exercise any function delegated to the Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs by this delegation. The Secretary of State and the Deputy Secretary of State may exercise the functions conferred by section 403(b) of the IAA and delegated under section 1(b) to the Under Secretary for Management.

(b) As used in this delegation of authority, the term "functions" includes any duty, obligation, power, authority, responsibility, right, privilege, discretion, determination, or activity.

(c) The functions delegated by this delegation of authority may be redelegated to the extent authorized by law except that the authority of the Secretary of State under subsection 204(c) of the IAA, relating to the temporary and permanent debarment of adoption service providers, may not be redelegated.

(d) Any reference in this delegation of authority to any act, executive order, determination, delegation of authority, regulation or procedure shall be deemed to be a reference to such act, order, determination, delegation of authority, regulation, or procedure as amended from time to time.

(e) This delegation shall be published in the **Federal Register** and is effective upon the date of my signature.

Dated: September 16, 2003.

Colin L. Powell,

Secretary of State, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 03-24768 Filed 9-29-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-06-M

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Trade Policy Staff Committee; Initiation of Environmental Review of Bahrain Free Trade Negotiations; Public Comments on Scope of Environmental Review

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: This publication gives notice that, pursuant to the Trade Act of 2002, and consistent with Executive Order 13141 (64 FR 63169) (Nov. 18, 1999) and its implementing guidelines (65 FR 79442), the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), through the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC), is initiating an environmental review of the proposed United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement. The TPSC is requesting written comments from the public on what should be

included in the scope of the environmental review, including the potential environmental effects that might flow from the free trade agreement and the potential implications for U.S. environmental laws and regulations, and identification of complementarities between trade and environmental objectives such as the promotion of sustainable development. The TPSC also welcomes public views on appropriate methodologies and sources of data for conducting the review. Persons submitting written comments should provide as much detail as possible on the degree to which the subject matter they propose for inclusion in the review may raise significant environmental issues in the context of the negotiation.

DATES: Public comments should be received no later than December 1, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submissions by electronic mail: FR0099@ustr.gov.

Submissions by facsimile: Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, at (202) 395-6143.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions concerning public comments, contact Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, TPSC, Office of the USTR, 1724 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508, telephone (202) 395-3475. Questions concerning the environmental review should be addressed to David J. Brooks, Environment and Natural Resources Section, USTR, telephone (202) 395-7320.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Background Information

On August 4, 2003, in accordance with section 2104(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 2002, the United States Trade Representative, Ambassador Robert B. Zoellick, notified Congress of the President's intent to enter into trade negotiations with Bahrain. Ambassador Zoellick outlined specific U.S. objectives for these negotiations in the notification letters to Congress. Copies of the letters are available at <http://www.ustr.gov/new/fta/Bahrain/2003-08-04-notification-house.pdf>, <http://www.ustr.gov/new/fta/Bahrain/2003-08-04-notification-senate.pdf>.

The TPSC has invited the public to provide written comments and/or oral testimony at a public hearing on November 5, 2003 in order to assist USTR in amplifying and clarifying negotiating objectives for the proposed FTA and to provide advice on how specific goods and services and other matters should be treated under the

proposed agreement (68 FR 51062) (August 25, 2003).

An FTA with Bahrain will promote the President's initiative to advance economic reforms in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf, moving us closer to the creation of a Middle East Free Trade Area. A U.S.-Bahrain FTA will build on the FTAs that we already have with Israel and Jordan, as well as the FTA that we are currently negotiating with Morocco. A comprehensive FTA will also provide an opportunity to work with Bahrain to encourage other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council to adopt high trade and investment standards.

In 2002, the United States exported \$419.2 million worth of aircraft, machinery, vehicles, pharmaceutical products, toys, games, sports equipment, and other goods to Bahrain. An FTA with Bahrain is expected to benefit American manufacturers—as well as U.S. exports of meats and high-value processed agricultural products—by enhancing access to Bahrain's market and promoting Bahrain's role as a regional business hub for the Gulf. An FTA is also expected to provide new export opportunities for U.S. services firms in sectors such as telecommunications, finance, distribution, energy, construction, engineering, health care, legal services, accountancy, tourism and travel, and environmental services. An FTA will also support Bahrain's commitment to transparency, openness, and the rule of law, thereby enhancing respect for intellectual property, labor rights, and environmental protection.

2. Environmental Review

USTR, through the TPSC, will perform an environmental review of the agreement pursuant to the Trade Act of 2002 and consistent with Executive Order 13141 (64 FR 63169) and its implementing guidelines (65 FR 79442).

Environmental reviews are used to identify potentially significant, reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts (both positive and negative), and information from the review can help facilitate consideration of appropriate responses where impacts are identified. Reviews address potential environmental impacts of the proposed agreement and potential implications for environmental laws and regulations. The focus of the review is on impacts in the United States, although global and transboundary impacts may be considered, where appropriate and prudent.