

Electronic Filing Procedures, *ftp://ftp.usitc.gov/pub/reports/electronic_filing_handbook.pdf*).

Any submissions that contain confidential business information must also conform with the requirements of § 201.6 of the *Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure* (19 CFR 201.6). Section 201.6 of the rules requires that the cover of the document and the individual pages be clearly marked as to whether they are the "confidential" or "nonconfidential" version, and that the confidential business information be clearly identified by means of brackets. All written submissions, except for confidential business information, will be made available in the Office of the Secretary to the Commission for inspection by interested parties.

The Commission may include some or all of the confidential business information submitted in the course of these investigations in the report it sends to the USTR and the President. However, should the Commission publish a public version of this report, such confidential business information will not be published in a manner that would reveal the operations of the firm supplying the information.

Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Secretary at 202-205-2000.

List of Subjects

Oman, tariffs, and imports.

Issued: December 7, 2004.

By order of the Commission.

Marilyn R. Abbott,

Secretary to the Commission.

[FR Doc. 04-27238 Filed 12-10-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7020-02-P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 332-464]

Export Opportunities and Barriers in African Growth and Opportunity Act—Eligible Countries

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Institution of investigation and scheduling of hearing.

SUMMARY: Following receipt on November 15, 2004, of a request from the United States Trade Representative (USTR) under section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1332 (g)), the Commission instituted investigation No. 332-464, Export Opportunities and Barriers in African Growth and Opportunity Act—Eligible Countries.

Background

As requested by the USTR, in its report the Commission will identify, with respect to each of the 37 sub-Saharan African countries that are eligible for African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) trade preferences, (1) the major economic sectors with the greatest potential for growth in export sales, and (2) domestic and international barriers that impede trade growth in such sectors. The Commission will also include in its report any information it identifies, in the course of its research efforts, concerning private sector initiatives and technical assistance programs that attempt to address such barriers.

As requested by the USTR, the Commission will seek to provide its report by June 30, 2005.

DATES: *Effective Date:* December 6, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Information may be obtained from the project leader, Nannette Christ (202-205-3263 or nannette.christ@usitc.gov) or the deputy project leader, Laura Polly (202-205-3408 or laura.polly@usitc.gov). For information on the legal aspects of this investigation, contact William Gearhart of the Office of the General Counsel (202-205-3091, william.gearhart@usitc.gov). The media should contact Margaret O'Laughlin, Office of Public Affairs (202-205-1819, margaret.olaughlin@usitc.gov).

Public Hearing: A public hearing in connection with this investigation is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. on March 1, 2005, at the U.S. International Trade Commission Building, 500 E Street, SW., Washington, DC. All persons have the right to appear by counsel or in person, to present information, and to be heard. Persons wishing to appear at the public hearing should file a letter with the Secretary, United States International Trade Commission, 500 E St., SW., Washington, DC 20436, no later than the close of business (5:15 p.m.) on February 14, 2005. In addition, persons appearing should file prehearing briefs (original and 14 copies) with the Secretary by the close of business on February 16, 2005. Posthearing briefs should be filed with the Secretary by the close of business on March 11, 2005. In the event that no requests to appear at the hearing are received by the close of business on February 14, 2005, the hearing will be canceled. Any person interested in attending the hearing as an observer or nonparticipant may call the Secretary to the Commission (202-205-1806) after February 14, 2005 to determine whether the hearing will be held.

Written Submissions: In lieu of or in addition to appearing at the public hearing, interested persons are invited to submit written statements concerning the investigation. Submissions should be addressed to the Secretary, United States International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20436. To be assured of consideration by the Commission, written statements related to the Commission's report should be submitted to the Commission at the earliest practical date, and should be received by the close of business on March 11, 2005. All written submissions, including briefs, must conform with the provisions of section 201.8 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR 201.8). Section 201.8 of the rules requires that a signed original (or copy designated as an original) and fourteen (14) copies of each document be filed. In the event that confidential treatment of the document is requested, at least four (4) additional copies must be filed, in which the confidential business information (CBI) must be deleted (see the following paragraph for further information regarding CBI). The Commission's rules do not authorize filing submissions with the Secretary by facsimile or electronic means, except to the extent permitted in section 201.8 of the rules (see Handbook for Electronic Filing Procedures, *ftp://ftp.usitc.gov/pub/reports/electronic_filing_handbook.pdf*). Persons with questions regarding electronic filing should contact the Secretary (202-205-2000 or edis@usitc.gov).

Any submissions, including briefs, that contain CBI must also conform with the requirements of section 201.6 of the Commission's rules (19 CFR 201.6). Section 201.6 of the rules requires that the cover of the document and the individual pages clearly be marked as to whether they are the "confidential" or "non-confidential" versions, and that the CBI be clearly identified by means of brackets. All written submissions, except for CBI, will be made available for inspection by interested parties.

The Commission may include some or all of the CBI it receives in the report it sends to the USTR. However, the Commission will not publish CBI in the public version of the report in a manner that would reveal the operations of the firm supplying the information. The public version of the report will be made available to the public on the Commission's Web site.

The public record for this report may be viewed on the Commission's electronic docket (EDIS) at <http://edis.usitc.gov>. Hearing impaired

individuals are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting our TDD terminal on 202-205-1810. Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Office of the Secretary at 202-205-2000.

List of Subjects

AGOA, Sub-Saharan Africa.

Issued: December 8, 2004.

By order of the Commission.

Marilyn R. Abbott,

Secretary to the Commission.

[FR Doc. 04-27265 Filed 12-10-04; 8:45 am]

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Inv. Nos. TA-131-31 and TA-2104-17]

U.S.-UAE Free Trade Agreement: Advice Concerning the Probable Economic Effect of Providing Duty-Free Treatment for Imports

AGENCY: International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Institution of investigation and scheduling of public hearing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 6, 2004.

SUMMARY: Following receipt on December 1, 2004, of a request from the United States Trade Representative (USTR), the Commission instituted investigation Nos. TA-131-31 and TA-2104-17, *U.S.-UAE Free Trade Agreement: Advice Concerning the Probable Economic Effect of Providing Duty-Free Treatment for Imports*, under section 131 of the Trade Act of 1974 and section 2104(b)(2) of the Trade Act of 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Information specific to these investigations may be obtained from Robert Carr, Project Leader (202-205-3402; robert.carr@usitc.gov), or Peder Andersen, Deputy Project Leader (202-205-3388; peder.andersen@usitc.gov), Office of Industries, United States International Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20436. For information on the legal aspects of these investigations, contact William Gearhart of the Office of the General Counsel (202-205-3091; william.gearhart@usitc.gov). Hearing impaired individuals are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the TDD terminal on (202) 205-1810. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its Internet server (<http://www.usitc.gov>).

The public record for these investigations may be viewed on the Commission's electronic docket (EDIS) at <http://edis.usitc.gov>.

Background: On November 15, 2004, the USTR notified the Congress of the President's intent to initiate free trade agreement negotiations with the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Accordingly, the USTR, pursuant to section 131 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2151), requested the Commission to provide a report including advice as to the probable economic effect of providing duty-free treatment for imports of products of UAE (i) on industries in the United States producing like or directly competitive products, and (ii) on consumers. In preparing the advice, the Commission's analysis will consider each article in chapters 1 through 97 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States for which U.S. tariffs will remain after the United States fully implements its Uruguay Round tariff commitments. The import advice will be based on the 2004 Harmonized Tariff System nomenclature and 2003 trade data. The advice with respect to the removal of U.S. duties on imports from UAE will assume that any known U.S. nontariff barrier will not be applicable to such imports. The Commission will note in its report any instance in which the continued application of a U.S. nontariff barrier to such imports would result in different advice with respect to the effect of the removal of the duty.

As also requested, pursuant to section 2104(b)(2) of the Trade Act of 2002 (19 U.S.C. 3804(b)(2)), the Commission will provide advice as to the probable economic effect of eliminating tariffs on imports of certain agricultural products of UAE on (i) industries in the United States producing the product concerned, and (ii) the U.S. economy as a whole.

USTR indicated that the Commission's report will be classified and that USTR considered it to be an interagency memorandum containing pre-decisional advice and subject to the deliberative process privilege. The Commission expects to provide its report to USTR by February 28, 2005.

Public Hearing: A public hearing in connection with these investigations is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. on January 5, 2005, at the United States International Trade Commission Building, 500 E Street SW., Washington, DC. This hearing will be held sequentially with a separate Commission hearing on January 5, 2005, in connection with its investigation *U.S.-Oman FTA: Advice Concerning the Probable Economic Effects of Providing Duty-Free Treatment for Imports* (Inv. Nos. TA-131-30 and TA-2104-16).

Requests to appear at the public hearing should be filed with the Secretary, not later than 5:15 p.m., December 17, 2004, in accordance with the requirements in the "Submissions" section below. In the event that, as of the close of business on December 17, 2004, no witnesses are scheduled to appear, the hearing will be canceled. Any person interested in attending the hearing as an observer or non-participant may call the Secretary (202-205-1806) after December 17, 2004 to determine whether the hearing will be held.

Written Submissions: In lieu of or in addition to participating in the hearing, interested parties are invited to submit written statements or briefs concerning these investigations. All written submissions, including requests to appear at the hearing, statements, and briefs, should be addressed to the Secretary, United States International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20436. Any prehearing statements or briefs should be filed not later than 5:15 p.m., December 21, 2004; the deadline for filing posthearing statements or briefs is 5:15 p.m., January 12, 2005. All written submissions must conform with the provisions of § 201.8 of the *Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure* (19 CFR 201.8). Section 201.8 of the rules requires that a signed original (or a copy designated as an original) and fourteen (14) copies of each document be filed. In the event that confidential treatment of the document is requested, at least four (4) additional copies must be filed, in which the confidential information must be deleted (see the following paragraph for further information regarding confidential business information). The Commission's rules do not authorize filing submissions with the Secretary by facsimile or electronic means, except to the extent permitted by § 201.8 of the rules (see Handbook for Electronic Filing Procedures, ftp://ftp.usitc.gov/pub/reports/electronic_filing_handbook.pdf).

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