

## Message to the Senate Transmitting the United States-Algeria Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters October 5, 2015

*To the Senate of the United States:*

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Algiers on April 7, 2010. I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty. The Treaty is one of a series of modern mutual legal assistance treaties negotiated by the United States to more effectively counter criminal activities. The Treaty should enhance our ability to investigate and prosecute a wide variety of crimes.

The Treaty provides for a broad range of cooperation in criminal matters. Under the Tre-

ty, the Parties agree to assist each other by, among other things: producing evidence (such as testimony, documents, or items) obtained voluntarily or, where necessary, by compulsion; arranging for persons, including persons in custody, to travel to provide evidence; serving documents; executing searches and seizures; locating and identifying persons or items; and freezing and forfeiting assets or property that may be the proceeds or instrumentalities of crime.

I recommend the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty, and give its advice and consent to ratification.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,  
October 5, 2015.

## Remarks Following a Meeting With Agriculture and Business Leaders on the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement October 6, 2015

Well, yesterday we announced a new trade agreement across the Asia-Pacific region that reflects American values and gives our working families and American businesses a fair shot, creates a level playing field. The Trans-Pacific Partnership took 5 years to negotiate, and I wanted to get the best possible deal done for American workers and American businesses, and that is what we have achieved.

This agreement makes us more competitive by eliminating about 18,000 taxes, tariffs that are placed on America's products in these other countries. Just to give you a couple examples, Japan puts a 38-percent tax on American beef before it ever reaches market. Malaysia currently puts a 30-percent tax on American auto parts. Vietnam puts a tax of as much as 70 percent on every car American automakers sell in Vietnam.

Under this agreement, all those foreign taxes will fall. Most of them will fall to zero. So we are knocking down barriers that are currently preventing American businesses from selling in these countries and are preventing American workers from benefiting from those sales to the fastest growing, most dynamic region in the world.

This agreement opens up new markets for goods that are made in America. Last year, we exported more than \$2 trillion worth of goods and services, which supported about 11.7 million American jobs. That's the fifth-straight year that we had set an export record. But when 95 percent of the world's markets are outside of our borders, we've got to do even better than that, particularly at a time when our economy is actually doing better than a lot of other countries and they want to sell stuff

here. We've got to make sure that we're able to sell stuff over there.

With this trade agreement, which spans nearly 40 percent of the global economy, we're going to be able to sell more products, more services, American agriculture, American manufacturing—we're going to be able to get those to markets, and American companies that produce here in the United States are not going to be disadvantaged relative to these markets.

Keep in mind that when there are high barriers in these countries, oftentimes, that's when a lot of American companies feel compelled, if we want to reach those markets, we've got to go produce over there. If the tariffs are down, if the taxes are down on goods made in America, that means U.S. companies that are investing here are able to sell over there without a disadvantage. That's what American leadership looks like in the 21st century. And that's why this agreement also sets high standards for one of the fastest growing regions of the world.

This agreement has the strongest labor standards of any trade agreement in history, including setting fair hours, prohibiting child labor, prohibiting forced labor. It includes the highest environmental standards in history and prevents overfishing and makes sure that wildlife trafficking isn't decimating wildlife that are a world treasure.

And so, unlike past agreements, these standards—high standards around labor and environment—are actually enforceable. If countries aren't abiding by them, then they don't get the benefits of selling to the United States under the terms of this agreement. And, under this agreement, we, rather than countries like China, are writing rules for the global economy.

So I've said repeatedly that I would only sign an agreement and present an agreement to Congress if I could be absolutely certain that it was good for American workers and good for American businesses, good for American farm-

ers and good for American ranchers, and good for American manufacturers. We have met that standard in this agreement.

So this week marks an important step forward, but there's going to be a long, healthy process of discussion and consultation and debate before this ever comes to an actual vote. And we committed properly that we would post this agreement, every crossed t and dotted i, on a website so that everybody is going to be able to look at it. We are going to be talking not just to Members of Congress, but the American public and various constituencies, and Governors and mayors who are represented here about why this is good for their communities.

And so we're going to have months before this actually comes up for a vote. People are going to have plenty of time to go over it. I suspect that there will be some misinformation that is propagated around this, as there usually is in these debates. But I'm also confident that the case to be made for why this is good for America is sufficiently strong, that ultimately we're going to get this done and it will be an enormous achievement for us to be able to make sure that 40 percent of the world's economy is operating under rules that don't hurt us, but instead help make sure that American workers and American businesses are getting a fair shot and that "Made in America," those products and services can be sold in places where there's going to be significant demand.

So I want to thank everybody around this table. This is a diverse constituency. A lot of different groups are represented here. We want to thank all of them for their work in getting us to this point, and now helping us get across the finish line.

Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:02 p.m. in the Williamsburg Room at the Department of Agriculture.