

U.K., it does the same for the EU. To be clear, the U.K.'s decision to withdraw from the EU should not jeopardize or weaken our country's relationship with the U.K., nor should it jeopardize or weaken our country's relationship with the EU. Both the U.K. and the EU are important diplomatic and economic partners of the United States.

As such, the resolution proposes stronger economic and commercial ties between the U.S. and the EU, including through the conclusion of a high-standard Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, T-TIP, agreement. Coincidentally, our trade negotiators are in Europe this week for the 14th round of T-TIP negotiations.

I would like to take a few moments to discuss Congress's expectations for T-TIP and to highlight areas of particular concern.

T-TIP presents an excellent opportunity for both the U.S. and the EU—the world's two largest economies—to strengthen our already robust economic relationship. That relationship is one of the most extensive and complex in the world. Together, our economies account for approximately half of world GDP and nearly one third of worldwide trade. Annual U.S.-EU trade amounts to hundreds of billions of dollars, and our two markets already are deeply integrated and relatively open. Nonetheless, opportunities exist for the U.S. and the EU to expand trade and investment by further reducing barriers and modernizing the rules that govern such trade and investment. But in order for T-TIP or any similar trade agreement to reach its full potential, it must reflect an unprecedented level of commitment—by both the EU and the Obama administration.

T-TIP also presents an excellent opportunity for the U.S. and the EU to work together to help set high standards for the world. If the agreement does not meet a high standard, then the rest of the world will take notice. In order to qualify as a high-standard agreement, T-TIP—just like any potential trade agreement between the U.S. and the U.K.—must satisfy the standards outlined in the TPA statute. If the agreement does not satisfy those standards, then it will face enormous difficulty in the Congress.

To do this, T-TIP must address several difficult areas. I will highlight only a few such areas and issues today, while noting that many others exist.

First, the agreement must have provisions that provide strong market access for agricultural products, including through the elimination of discriminatory geographical indication practices and unjustified sanitary and phytosanitary standards.

Second, the agreement must be comprehensive and not exclude any products or economic sectors from the negotiations. Of particular concern are services. The agreement should not broadly exempt future services or specifically exempt other types of services, including audiovisual services or

financial services. In particular, both the market access and the regulatory scope of the agreement should address financial services.

Third, a valid and passable T-TIP agreement must reflect the highest standards of protection for intellectual property rights. Moreover, any outcome on intellectual property must not jeopardize our country's ability to achieve high levels of intellectual property protection in other markets or in other negotiations.

Finally, T-TIP must address barriers to digital trade, including discriminatory treatment of digital products and barriers that inhibit the free flow of digital data, such as forced data localization policies. In short, the agreement must ensure that all products, services, and technologies are given the chance to compete in the marketplace.

T-TIP is intended to be a model for the world, so we must get it right.

The resolution that I'm introducing today notes the importance of economic cooperation among the U.S., the U.K., and the EU, and highlights the mutual benefits to be achieved through such cooperation. In particular, the resolution calls upon the EU and the U.K. to work constructively to achieve a climate for trade and investment that is mutually beneficial and productive; and it notes that the continued movement of goods, services, and capital between the U.K. and the EU is important not only to the U.K. and the EU, but also to American businesses invested in Europe and the U.S. economy generally. The U.S., the U.K., and the EU will all benefit as our countries work together to become economically stronger and more geopolitically secure.

Finally, I would like to say a few words regarding the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP, agreement. I fought hard to secure TPA, in large part, so that this administration would have the ability to secure a strong TPP agreement. However, in a few important areas, TPP falls short. I am committed to working with the administration to help to improve on those shortcomings. In the meantime, it is essential that the administration begin to work with our TPP partners to develop meaningful country-specific implementation commitments.

During a hearing held by the Senate Finance Committee earlier this year, members of the Committee heard assessments from American exporters and stakeholders about the implementation of past free trade agreements. It is an unfortunate fact that the Obama administration has allowed free trade agreements to enter into force before ensuring that our partners have taken all steps necessary to comply with their obligations under the agreements. It is clear that more confidence regarding effective implementation of trade agreements will be necessary before the Congress approves TPP.

Moreover, as our TPP partners begin their domestic implementation proc-

esses, concerns are growing that the measures that our trading partners intend to take to implement TPP fall short of what is required by the agreement. Failure by our trading partners to fully and faithfully implement their TPP obligations threatens to reduce the value of the agreement for U.S. businesses, workers, farmers, ranchers, and consumers.

That is why it is essential that the Obama administration now work to reach country-specific plans identifying the changes that our trading partners must and will make to their laws, regulations, and practices in order to meet their key TPP obligations. These country-specific implementation commitments would provide a valuable tool for resolving shortcomings and ambiguities in the agreement, while helping to build confidence in the Congress that TPP will be implemented fully and faithfully by our trading partners. Put simply, these country-specific implementation commitments can be an essential component to developing the political support necessary for the Congress to pass TPP implementing legislation.

During the 114th Congress, we have successfully enacted a number of strong trade policies that reflect and advance our national interest. T-TIP and TPP negotiations represent important opportunities for the administration to use the tools provided by Congress to help American businesses, workers, and consumers to benefit from trade. We must remain vigilant to ensure that our trade objectives are met and hold the administration accountable for achieving the goals that the Congress has established. At the same time, we need to look toward the future.

The resolution that we are submitting today is designed to reinforce our support for strong, market-opening agreements and to remind this and future administrations that the Congress is, and will remain, an active participant in formulating U.S. trade policy.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this important resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4973. Mr. BLUNT proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2893, to reauthorize the sound recording and film preservation programs of the Library of Congress, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4973. Mr. BLUNT proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2893, to reauthorize the sound recording and film preservation programs of the Library of Congress, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 2, line 9, strike “\$750,000” and insert “\$1,000,000”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 13, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a Subcommittee hearing entitled "NASA at a Crossroads: Reasserting American Leadership in Space Exploration."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 13, 2016, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 13, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015: Ensuring Successful Implementation of Physician Payment Reforms."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 13, 2016, at 11:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Nominations."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 13, 2016, at 2:45 p.m., in room SD-106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Campus Safety: Improving Prevention and Response Efforts."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 13, 2016, at 10 a.m., in Room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Nominations."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME AND TERRORISM

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 13, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., in Room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Researching the Potential Medical Benefits and Risks of Marijuana."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Health Care of the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 13, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Alzheimer's Disease: The Struggle for Families, a Looming Crisis for Medicare."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIA, THE PACIFIC, AND INTERNATIONAL CYBERSECURITY POLICY

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 13, 2016, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "U.S. Policy Options in the South China Sea."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 13, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Zika in the Western Hemisphere: Risks and Response."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Warren Ponto, the committee's detailee from the FAA, be allowed privileges of the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Alexandra Bratton, an intern on the Energy Committee, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of today's session of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Sydney Jones, Macon Sheppard, William Aulgar, and Jewel Green-Harris, of my office, be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of today's legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 2943

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the prayer and pledge on Thursday July 14, the Chair lay before the Senate the House message accompanying S. 2943, and Senator MCCONNELL be recognized to make a compound motion to go to conference on S. 2943; further, that after cloture is filed on the compound motion, the time until 11:30 a.m. be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees and that at 11:30 a.m. the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the compound motion to go to conference; further, that if cloture is invoked, the Senate agree to the compound motion to go to conference and there be two motions to instruct in order made by Senator SHAHEEN and Senator SULLIVAN; further, that Senator SHAHEEN be recognized to offer a motion to instruct the conferees and that there be up to 4 minutes of debate equally divided on the motion and that following the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote in relation to the Shaheen motion; that following the disposition of the Shaheen motion, Senator SULLIVAN be recognized to offer a motion to instruct the conferees and that there be up to 4 minutes of debate equally divided on the motion and that following the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote in relation to the Sullivan motion without any intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar Nos. 659 through 678 and all nominations on the Secretary's desk; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Christian D. Becker