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[U.S. Depends 100% on Imported Titanium, BIS Working Group Finds](#)

The Titanium Sponge Working Group (TSWG), established under the Trump administration in 2020, has released a report highlighting increased dependence of the U.S. on imported titanium sponge, a crucial raw material for titanium metal production.

According to the TSWG's findings, U.S. dependency on imported titanium sponge has risen dramatically from 68% in 2020 to 100% today, emphasizing a severe reliance on overseas supplies. These findings underscore the urgency for measures ensuring access to this critical input, which plays a pivotal role in the defense and industrial sectors, particularly in aerospace applications.

[Korea, Cambodia, Kick off Summer CODEL](#)

House Committee on Ways and Means Chairman Jason Smith (MO-08) led a bipartisan delegation of House members to Seoul, South Korea where they participated in bilateral meetings held by South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and other prominent Korean government officials focused on U.S.-Korea economic relations.

The twenty-person delegation visited Korea on the first leg of its trip to four East Asian countries. In Cambodia Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce, met on August 2 with the lawmakers.

[Canada Dairy Decision in Fall: McKalip](#)

The Administration is expecting a panel decision in a dispute with Canada over its dairy policy under US-Mexico-Canada Agreement later this summer or early fall, Chief US Agricultural Negotiator Doug McKalip said Wednesday. The Administration remains "laser focused" on the issue and will keep up the pressure until US dairy producers have the full retail access to Canada's market promised in the USMCA, he stated. "This battle is not over."

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Gallagher Committee Spreads Limelight

While Congress takes a Summer recess, Chairman Mike Gallagher (R-WI) and his Congressional Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party continue to badger communists and their supporters at every turn, from coastal investment elites to row crop farmers in Iowa.

Thursday, Mr. Gallagher, Ranking Member Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), and Rep. Ashley Hinson (R-IA), hosted a roundtable event in Dysart, Iowa to highlight the Chinese Communist Party's agricultural technology theft. Earlier in the week the Chairman railed on the investment community in three separate actions.

USMCA - Mining Dispute Outside Treaty Scope: Mexico

Mexico's Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare responded to the US Government regarding the labor dispute at the country's largest underground mine, asserting that the events leading to the strike and the subsequent denial of rights occurred before the implementation of the treaty in 2020. Consequently, under the principle of non-retroactivity of the law, the MLRR does not apply to this dispute. [READ MORE](#)

USTR - EV Trade in Focus

The Administration is concerned about the potential threat posed by China's growing electric vehicles industry, Brian Janovitz, chief counsel for China Trade Enforcement at the US Trade Representative's Office said Thursday.

US officials are well aware that Beijing is seeking market dominance in the EV vehicle sector and is going well beyond subsidies in its industrial targeting of the sector, he told a program sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association.

"We are concerned," said Mr. Janovitz. "Autos are a sector in the United States that has a long history, both autos and auto parts. A lot of good paying jobs, often union jobs, jobs for folks without college degree. So threats to that are taken seriously

WTO - Dispute Settlement Still Stuck

The facilitator overseeing informal discussions on reforming the World Trade Organization's dispute settlement system says there are "highly sensitive issues for which Members still hold different conceptual views about how to tackle them," said people familiar with the discussions.

To overcome the continued paralysis in the two-tier dispute settlement system, trade ministers at the 12th ministerial meeting last year mandated their respective representatives at the WTO to "commit to conduct discussions with the view to having a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system accessible to all Members by 2024."

WTO - Green Box Subsidies Challenged

The African Group, comprised of over 50 developing and underdeveloped countries, proposes "achievable and credible" measures to cut trade-distorting domestic support and blue and green box subsidies worth hundreds of billions of US dollars, our correspondent writes.

The proposal contends that green box subsidies are becoming increasingly trade-distorting, thereby questioning the premise that these agricultural supports do not affect trade.

WTO - LDCs Call for Food Price Safeguards

More than 50 countries of the African Group as well as Pakistan have raised a red flag against seemingly asymmetrical provisions in the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Agriculture that fail to provide a special safeguard mechanism to face sudden and unforeseen surges in food products.

While industrialized countries such as the United States, the European Union, Japan, Norway and several developing countries are able to cushion their agriculture with safeguard provisions in the WTO's Agreement on Agriculture to stop unforeseen imports of agricultural products, a large majority of developing countries do not have such a facility.

Compliance in Solar Supply Chain

The Uyghur Region produces between one third and one half of the world's solar-grade polysilicon, as well as much as 32% of global metallurgical grade silicon (MGS), polysilicon's pre-cursor material. So if it's a solar panel, the odds are good slavery had a hand making it.

Alan Crawford and Laura Murphy of Sheffield Hallam University published a review of the solar panel supply chain and its potential exposure to modern slavery, and the findings were discouraging.

"Despite significant global pressure for increased transparency, information regarding solar industry sourcing is becoming less transparent over time, thwarting the world's ability to source ethically," the Authors write.

Treasury Releases CFIUS Annual Report for 2022

The Department of the Treasury, as Chair of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), released its Annual Report to Congress for calendar year 2022.

The Committee's workload remained high with a record number of filed transactions based on the expanded jurisdiction provided by the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act (FIRRMA), mandatory filings in certain instances, and more sophisticated processes for identifying non-notified transactions.

BIS Extends Comment Period for Record Retention Review

Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security, Commerce Department is calling for comments on the Five-Year Records Retention Requirement for Export Transactions and Boycott Actions.

Public comments were previously requested via the Federal Register on April 5, 2023, during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

[DOE Publishes Critical Materials List](#)

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has published the 2023 DOE Critical Materials List. This list includes critical materials for energy, as determined by the Secretary of Energy as well as those critical minerals on the 2022 final list published by the Secretary of Interior.

[CBP Forced Labor Detained Cargo for Storage](#)

Importers or their authorized filers may submit a request to the Port Director at which their cargo is detained to move their detained cargo to a customs bonded warehouse for storage pending resolution by CBP or the importer. The Port Director has the authority to approve or deny the request and will do so based on the circumstances at their port.

Importers or their authorized filers may not move detained goods suspected of being made with forced labor into a Foreign Trade Zone for storage.

*** Events***

[CBP ACE Technical Forum](#)

CBP ACE Technical Forum Thursday, September 14, 2023 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (UTC-04:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada) The Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) is the system ...

[CFIUS Annual Conference](#)

8:00 AM

Treasury announced the second annual Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) Conference, which will take place on Thursday, September 14

[BIS Update Conference Set for November 28 -30](#)

The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) will hold the 2023 Update Conference on Export Controls and Policy from Tuesday, November 28 through Thursday, November 30