

Washington Tariff & Trade Letter

Vol. 43, No 44

wttonline.com

October 30, 2023

[US, EU Fail to Reach Steel Pact](#)

US and European Union negotiators were unable to reach agreement on a global steel arrangement in time for Friday's leaders summit, but they agreed to continue negotiations and hold off on tariff hikes in the meantime.

Negotiators had hoped to have a deal in hand for leaders to endorse at the White House summit, but officials said more work is needed before both sides can support agreements on steel and aluminum and energy subsidies.

President Biden's meeting with European Council President Charles Michel and European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen ended up being primarily focused on international issues, including the war between Israel and Hamas and ensuring continued support for Ukraine in its fight against Russia's invasion. [READ MORE](#)

[USDA: \\$2.3 Billion for Trade Promo, Food Aid](#)

With the window rapidly closing for Congress to pass a farm bill this year, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced Oct. 24 that USDA is providing \$2.3 billion to maintain trade promotion and international food aid.

The funding is coming out of the Commodity Credit Corporation, at the request of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Mr. Vilsack told reporters. [READ MORE](#)

[US Australia Summit Yields Fruit](#)

Following their meetings in Washington last week, U.S. President Joe Biden and Australian President Anthony Albanese released a summary memorandum describing the many commitments and collaborations promised for the allies.

The leaders covered a broad swath of inquiry, from research in responsible and ethical AI solutions, private sector investments, space technology safeguards, clean energy collaboration, critical minerals supply chains, Pacific connectivity, cyber resilience, financial access in the Pacific Islands, infrastructure development, defense and security cooperation, to public diplomacy, or the P.R. required to sell the schemes to their citizenry. [READ MORE](#)

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[APEP Leaders Summit Planned](#)

President Biden will host Western Hemisphere leaders at the White House on November 3 for the first Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity Leaders' Summit [READ MORE](#)

[Tai Heads to G7 Trade Ministers Meeting](#)

US Trade Representative Katherine Tai will be in Osaka over the weekend for the G7 Trade Ministers' meeting. G7 trade ministers will gather on October 28 to 29. During this meeting, Ambassador Tai will participate in ministerial sessions on how G7 members can work together to address sustainability and resilience in the global trading system. [READ MORE](#)

[Business Advisory on Uganda Issued](#)

The Administration issued a Business Advisory on Uganda Oct. 23, cautioning about potential risks involved in doing business in Uganda.

Businesses, organizations and individuals should be aware of potential financial and reputational risks resulting from endemic corruption, described in more detail in the 2023 Investment Climate Statement, as well as violence against human rights activists, media members, health workers, members of minority groups, LGBTQI+ persons and political opponents described in the 2022 Country Report on Human Rights Practices in Uganda, according to the advisory. [READ MORE](#)

[DoC Reviewing Vietnam's NME Status](#)

The Commerce Department announced Oct. 24 it will begin a review of Vietnam's non-market economy status. The review comes at the request of Vietnam.

On September 8, government of Vietnam filed an official request that Commerce consider it a market economy citing the country's economic reforms made in recent years. [READ MORE](#)

[Progress, No Deals at IPEF Round Six](#)

Negotiators on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework reported progress was made at the sixth round of talks in Malaysia, but no agreements were reached, even as the Administration hopes to substantially wrap up a deal before the end of this year.

IPEF countries continued to make progress on negotiations towards high-standard outcomes under Pillars I (Trade), III (Clean Economy) and IV (Fair Economy), according to a joint readout from the US Trade Representative's Office and Commerce Department. [READ MORE](#)

[US, EU Talk Insurance Issues](#)

US and European Union officials met Oct. 24 to discuss insurance issues at a session of the Joint Committee established under the US-EU Agreement on Prudential Measures Regarding Insurance and Reinsurance.

The agreement addresses three areas of prudential insurance oversight: (1) reinsurance; (2) group supervision and (3) the exchange of insurance information between supervisors. [READ MORE](#)

[Sec. Raimondo Meets With Germany's Wissing on Digital Policy](#)

Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo met Oct. 26 with Germany's Minister for Digital Policy and Transportation Volker Wissing to discuss digital trade.

The two spoke on "the importance of the transatlantic economic and cybersecurity relationship," per a Commerce Department press release.

The leaders also discussed artificial intelligence and the EU-U.S. Data Privacy Framework. [READ MORE](#)

[Johnson New House Speaker](#)

The House is returning to work on legislation after Republicans approved conservative Rep. Mike Johnson (La) as House Speaker.

The vote to approve Rep. Johnson, who has been in office less than seven years, came after weeks of

upheaval among House Republicans following the surprise decision to remove Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif) from the Speaker's chair. [READ MORE](#)

[Gallagher Blasts US Universities China Engagement](#)

Rep. Mike Gallagher aimed his lance at the Ivory Tower, in a speech Monday to the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Universities, urging the leaders to share his appreciation of the Chinese threat.

Mr. Gallagher decried university administrators' perceived indifference to CCP surveillance and intimidation, an ill-regulated flow of expertise overseas, and the role of US Capital in accelerating Chinese military innovation. [READ MORE](#)

[Congress Weighs FTAs as Means of Improving Workers' Rights](#)

An Oct. 25 Congressional Research Service document, entitled "Worker Rights Provisions in Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)," lays out an argument for FTAs as a way of improving standards for workers around the globe.

The document details past agreements, like 1994's NAFTA, TPA-2002 and USMCA and explains how the agreements have protected workers in the regions they covered. [READ MORE](#)

[Sens. Crapo, Scott Introduce Bill to Protect Military Sites](#)

Senator Mike Crapo (R-Iowa) and Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC) introduced the Protect Our Bases Act Oct. 24. The bill is aimed at screening foreign land purchases near sensitive military and intelligence sites.

The new bill would require agencies represented on CIFUS to keep updated annually their records of potentially sensitive sites. Furthermore, CIFUS must "submit an annual report to Congress certifying the completion of such reviews and the accuracy of its real estate listings," according to the release. [READ MORE](#)

[CECC China Commission Seeks Controls on DNA Tech](#)

Congressional-Executive Commission on China Chair Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) and co-chair Senator Jeff Merkley (D-Ore) are calling on the Administration to impose export controls on technology used by China to collect biometric data in Tibet.

The request follows a prior letter by CECC Commissioners to the CEO of Thermo Fisher Scientific that expressed concerns that Thermo Fisher products were used for mass biometric data collection and surveillance that "could enable further gross violations" of the human rights of Tibetans. [READ MORE](#)

[China Global Payments Market Threat Cited](#)

A group of Senate Republicans are calling on the Administration to confront China's growing footprint in the US financial system and global payments market.

In a letter to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and US Trade Representative Katherine Tai, the senators urged the Administration to "closely examine the infiltration of Chinese payments networks into the United States, ensure payment providers are not disadvantaged by China's disregard for international agreements and conduct a review of any potential gaps in US sanction authority created by Beijing's expansion of its Cross-Border Interbank Payment System." [READ MORE](#)

[WTO JSI Participants Shocked by US](#)

World Trade Organization members participating in the plurilateral Joint Statement Initiative negotiations on e-commerce were taken by surprise yesterday by the United States' announcement it with withdrawing its support for three core proposals – cross-border data flows, the location of computing facilities and source code, according to participants involved in the discussions.

At a meeting of the JSI on digital trade Wednesday, a US official announced that Washington is withdrawing the proposals on the three issues due to on public policy considerations as well as privacy grounds, said participants who asked not to be quoted. [READ MORE](#)

[WTO Panel Set on US AD Duties on OCTG](#)

Geneva – The World Trade Organization's Dispute Settlement Body Oct. 26 gave a green signal for establishing a panel to rule against the imposition of US antidumping duties on imported oil country tubular goods from Argentina.

At a DSB meeting Oct. 26, Argentina pressed ahead with its second request for establishing a panel against Washington's antidumping duties on imported oil country tubular goods from Argentina.

Though the United States expressed disappointment with the Argentinean second request, it could not prevent the establishment of a panel. [READ MORE](#)

[EU Compiling National Export Controls Lists](#)

The European Commission is stepping up efforts to make sure that sensitive technologies do not fall into the wrong hands, by paving the way for better coordination of export controls at EU level.

Under the EU's Dual-Use Regulation, Member States have the opportunity to coordinate their export controls on items for which export controls have not been agreed multilaterally. [READ MORE](#)

[Briefing Nov. 6 on New Semiconductor Rules](#)

On November 6, 2023, Assistant Secretary for Export Administration Thea D. Rozman Kendler will conduct a public briefing on the two interim final rules and one final rule:

“Implementation of Additional Export Controls: Certain Advanced Computing Items; Supercomputer and Semiconductor End Use; Updates and Corrections” and “Export Controls on Semiconductor Manufacturing Items,” which were both filed for public inspection at the Federal Register on October 18, 2023. BIS published an associated final rule, “Entity List Additions,” in the Federal Register on October 19, 2023. [READ MORE](#)

[Forfeiture Complaint Filed Against \\$300 Million Superyacht Amadea](#)

The Federal government announced the filing of a civil forfeiture complaint against the Motor Yacht Amadea, a 348-foot luxury vessel reportedly worth over \$300 million.

The Complaint alleges that the superyacht, which is beneficially owned by Russian oligarch Suleiman Kerimov, was improved and maintained in violation of applicable sanctions against Kerimov and those acting on his behalf. [READ MORE](#)

[USTR Calls for Review at Mexican Caterpillar Plant](#)

The United States has asked Mexico to review whether workers at Tecnología Modificada S.A. de C.V., in Nuevo Laredo, a subsidiary of Caterpillar Inc., are being denied the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining. The facility produces remanufactured automotive parts.

The request, made in response to a petition, marks the sixteenth time the United States has formally invoked the Rapid Response Labor Mechanism (RRM) in the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). [READ MORE](#)

[USTR Cites Chinese Maquiladora under USMCA Labor](#)

United States Trade Representative Katherine Tai announced Monday that the United States has asked Mexico to review whether workers at the Asiaway Automotive Components Mexico facility in San Luis Potosi are being denied the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining.

Asiaway Automotive Components Mexico performs die casting and machining of aluminum parts for "Tier One" suppliers such as Magna, Cummins, and Robert Bosch, as well as General Motors and BMW. The plant opened in June of 2023 and employs 300 workers. Parent company Ningbo Asiaway Automotive Components Co., Ltd is a privately held company based in Ningbo, an industrial hub near Shanghai. [READ MORE](#)

[China Commission Cites Forced Labor in Chinese Seafood](#)

The bipartisan Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC) held a hearing last week on forced labor in China's seafood industry and how seafood caught and processed with forced labor ends up in the U.S. supply chains.

The CECC's Chairs, Representative Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) were joined at the hearing by Commissioner Thea Lee, the Deputy Undersecretary for International Affairs at the Department of Labor.

In his opening statement Mr. Smith cited the work of The Outlaw Ocean Project whose reporting exposed a "disconcerting pattern of People's Republic of China (PRC) based companies exploiting the forced labor of Uyghurs and North Koreans to process substantial quantities of seafood destined for the U.S. market. [READ MORE](#)