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Governments Seek to Regulate Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence, or AI, has been heralded as a way to disrupt the workforce—to the chagrin of many human workers.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk was hopeful about the future of AI in a meeting this week with UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. [READ MORE](#)

Biden Urges AGOA Renewal, Update

President Biden is calling on Congress to reauthorize and modernize the African Growth and Opportunity Act trade preferences program.

The President's endorsement of AGOA comes as top US officials and African ministers are gathering in South Africa for the annual AGOA forum.

"I encourage Congress to reauthorize AGOA in a timely fashion and to modernize this important Act for the economic opportunities of the coming decade," the President said. [READ MORE](#)

AGOA: US Removes Four Countries

Just days before the African Growth and Opportunity Act Forum convenes in South Africa, President Biden announced he is removing four beneficiary countries from the program for their failure to comply with AGOA's criteria.

The countries losing their duty-free access to the US market under AGOA are Gabon, Niger, the Central African Republic and Uganda. Mauritania, on the other hand, is being reinstated into AGOA after losing its eligibility in 2019 because of worker rights concerns. [READ MORE](#)

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[G7 Trade Ministers Call for WTO Reform and Less China Coercion](#)

Group of Seven trade ministers concluded a two-day meeting in Osaka with calls for a successful World Trade Organization 13th ministerial conference and cooperation on combating unfair trade practices by China.

In a joint statement Sunday, the ministers called for creating a dedicated space at the World Trade Organization to talk about trade and state intervention in industry. The ministers expressed concern about “nonmarket policies and practices” that “are an integral part of comprehensive strategies to pursue global market dominance.” [READ MORE](#)

World Trade Organization

[WTO: DG's Top Down Approach Prompts Grumbles](#)

The World Trade Organization's Director-General and the General Council Chair released a summary outlining key points from the recent senior officials meeting. However, trade diplomats noted discrepancies in various mandated issues. The report, unexpectedly released Saturday 28 October, came four days post the meeting... [READ MORE](#)

[WTO: MC13 Agenda Still in the Air](#)

Many World Trade Organization members last week flagged their core priorities for next year's 13th ministerial conference, cautioning the credibility of the trade body could be lost if it cannot deliver on mandated issues in areas like TRIPS, agriculture and development.

At an informal General Council meeting held Wednesday, trade envoys echoed their divergent priorities for the possible deliverables at the MC13. [READ MORE](#)

Trade Policy

[Commerce Imposes Limits on Promotion of Surveillance Tech](#)

Senate Finance Committee Chair Ron Wyden (D-Ore) praised the Commerce Department for putting in place new policies to prevent the promotion of US surveillance technology to foreign governments in response to his request earlier this year.

“For the first time the Department is making clear that the United States will not help companies find foreign markets for products or services that undermine democracy or enable repressive surveillance and discrimination,” said Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) applauding the change. [READ MORE](#)

[Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity \(IPEF\) Negotiating Round in San Francisco](#)

November 5-12, 2023, for the seventh in-person negotiating round of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF).

In San Francisco, the IPEF partners will continue to make progress on negotiations towards high-standard outcomes under Pillars I (Trade), III (Clean Economy), and IV (Fair Economy). [READ MORE](#)

[China Hawks Prod White House on Outbound Investment Executive Order](#)

Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-WI) and Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and Chinese Communist Party, sent a letter to Janet Yellen, Secretary of the Treasury, with recommendations for the implementation of the Biden Administration's August Executive Order on outbound American investment in China. [READ MORE](#)

[Calls to Use APEP to End Investor State Dispute Settlements](#)

On the eve of President Biden hosting the first Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity leaders summit, lawmakers urged the Administration to eliminate investor-state dispute settlement from existing US trade and investment agreements.

The APEP regional framework provides an opportunity to remove ISDS from existing trade agreements with Central and Latin American countries. [READ MORE](#)

[American Security Drone Act bans Chinese UAV Procurement](#)

Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-WI), chair of the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party, along with Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT), unveiled the American Security Drone Act Nov. 1. [READ MORE](#)

[BIS: Firearms Pause & Review - Frequently Asked Questions](#)

The U.S. Department of Commerce is pausing for approximately 90 days the issuance of new export licenses involving certain firearms, related components, and ammunition under its jurisdiction and the provision of new export assistance activities for such products to all non-governmental end users worldwide, apart from those in certain destinations. [READ MORE](#)

[China Hawks Call for Controls on Open Source Chip Design](#)

Congressional China hawks sent a letter to Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo Thursday, calling for the Department to regulate the open-source collaboration model employed in modern advanced semiconductor design.

Reps. Mike Gallagher (R-WI) and Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), along with Sen. Marco Rubio and fourteen other lawmakers call for the Commerce Department to “build a robust ecosystem for open-source collaboration among the U.S. and our allies while ensuring the PRC is unable to benefit from that work.” [READ MORE](#)

Enforcement

[GE Spinoff Reports FCPA Cases](#)

GE Healthcare Technologies, a spinoff of General Electric, has reported potential violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) in its China-based operations. The disclosure was made in the company's quarterly filing with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on October 31.

According to the filing, GE Healthcare identified "tender irregularities and other potential violations" related to its activities across multiple Chinese provinces. This marks the first instance that the company has publicly acknowledged possible FCPA violations. [READ MORE](#)

[Brooklyn Dual Use Arrests](#)

Four individuals were arrested, and an indictment and criminal complaint were unsealed this week regarding two separate conspiracies to unlawfully export controlled, dual-use technologies to Russia.

October 31, a criminal complaint was unsealed, and a Brooklyn, New York, resident and two Canadian nationals were arrested in connection with a global procurement scheme in which the defendants used two corporate entities registered in Brooklyn to unlawfully source and purchase dual-use electronics on behalf of end-users in Russia, including companies affiliated with the Russian military.

Separately, a Brooklyn resident was arrested, and a four-count indictment was unsealed alleging an illegal exports scheme to procure dual-use electronic components for entities in Russia involved in the development and manufacture of drones for the Russian war effort in Ukraine. [READ MORE](#)

[Outcomes FATF Plenary](#)

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an intergovernmental body that establishes international standards for anti-money laundering, countering the financing of terrorism, and countering the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (AML/CFT/CPF), issued public statements at the conclusion of its plenary meeting last month that identified jurisdictions with AML/CFT/CPF deficiencies.

Additionally, the FATF noted that the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine continues to run counter to FATF's principles, and, thus the suspension of the membership of the Russian Federation continues to stand. [READ MORE](#)

Sanctions

OFAC Sanctions Further 130 Entities

Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) announced sanctions on a sweeping roster of individuals and entities from People's Republic of China (PRC), Türkiye, and the United Arab Emirates (the UAE) abetting Russia's war against Ukraine by providing Russia with technology and equipment from third countries.

The U.S. Department of State is also issuing nearly 100 sanctions today targeting Russia's future energy production and revenue, metals and mining sector, defense procurement, and those involved in supporting the Russian government's war effort and other malign activities. [READ MORE](#)

Commerce Blacklists More Russian UAV Suppliers

November 2, the Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) released a rule adding 13 entities to the Entity List for supporting Russia's military through the procurement, development, and proliferation of Russian unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

Twelve entities being added are in Russia and one is in Uzbekistan. [READ MORE](#)

OFAC Targets Entities Funding Hamas

The U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) recently added eight individuals and four entities to its specially designated nationals list in response to the Hamas attacks on Oct. 7. [READ MORE](#)

Bill Calls for Hong Kong Sanctions

A bipartisan group of U.S. lawmakers has introduced legislation calling on the Biden administration to impose sanctions on 49 top Hong Kong justice officials and judges for whittling away basic rights.

The Hong Kong Sanctions Act requires the president to determine whether certain Hong Kong officials violated human rights and sanctions should be imposed in accordance with the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019, or the Hong Kong Autonomy Act. [READ MORE](#)

OFAC: Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and Burma Military Regime Sanctions

In a coordinated effort with Canada and the UK, Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) published a new directive that prohibits certain financial services by U.S. persons to or for the benefit of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), as well as five military regime appointed officials and officers. [READ MORE](#)

Supply Chain & Tariffs

[Committee Writes to Costco, ADI on Banned Chinese Products](#)

Representative Chris Smtih (R-NJ) and Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) of the bicameral Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC) sent letters Oct. 31 inquiring about Costco and ADI's selling of banned products with ties to China. [READ MORE](#)

[GAO Recommends USDA Evaluate Sugar Import Restrictions](#)

The GAO released a report Oct. 31 stating that current USDA restrictions on imports of sugar are both a boon to producers and a burden to consumers. [READ MORE](#)

[Supreme Court Declines Steel Tariff Appeal](#)

The US Supreme Court has declined to hear a US steel importers challenge to tariffs imposed by former President Trump on some steel derivative products, like nails.

Texas-based PrimeSource Building Products had appealed the 25 percent tariffs on the grounds that the former President exceeded his authority in imposing the tariffs. President Biden has kept the tariffs in place. [READ MORE](#)

[AD/CVD: File Folders Injure US Industry](#)

The International Trade Commission determined Oct. 31 that a US industry is materially injured by reason of imports of paper file folders from China, India, and Vietnam that the Commerce Department has determined are sold in the United States at less than fair value and subsidized by the government of India. [READ MORE](#)

People on the Move

[Blumenauer Leaving Congress](#)

Oregon Democrat Rep. Earl Blumenauer – who has taken an active role in trade legislation – has announced he will not seek reelection. [READ MORE](#)

[USTR: Morrow New Senior Advisor](#)

US Trade Representative Katherine Tai announced Nov. 2 that Cara Morrow is taking on the position of senior advisor, overseeing close coordination with the Office of Western Hemisphere, the Office of Europe and the Middle East, the Office of Labor Affairs and the Office of Environment and Natural Resources. [READ MORE](#)

White Leaving USTR

Deputy US Trade Representative Jayme White is planning to leave his post at the US Trade Representative's Office effective November 1. [READ MORE](#)