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POLITICS AND POLICY

Cuban Trade Regs Loosened

Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) is amending the Cuban Assets Control Regulations (the "Regulations") to further implement elements of the policy announced by the Administration on May 16, 2022,

Cuban entrepreneurs' access to internet-based services and banking facilities are improved, while the restrictions on transactions with state-owned entities remain fully in force. [READ MORE](#)

Adeyemo Calls for Coodinated Action on Russo-Chinese Defense Trade

A senior Treasury Department official called for European allies to line up in applying pressure to Beijing to cease supporting the Kremlin's war efforts.

Citing the Russian economy's "war footing," Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Wally Adeyemo said "this war is not just an existential threat to Ukraine, but to Europe and our national security." [READ MORE](#)

Raimondo, Mc Kalip to Singapore for IPEF Ministerial

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo will travel to Singapore from June 3 to June 6 to participate in the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)'s Ministerial meeting. USTR Chief Agricultural Negotiator Doug McKalip will accompany Ms. Raimondo. [READ MORE](#)

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www.wttonline.com

Editor: Frank Ruffing +1.703.283.5220. fruffing@traderegs.com

GOP Calls for More China Blacklists

Twelve GOP lawmakers sent a letter to U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen calling on the Office of Foreign Assets Control and Financial Crimes Enforcement Network to investigate six People's Republic of China (PRC) companies, including two of the largest oil companies in the PRC. The apparent intent is to discourage US investors from owning shares in the firms, several of which are included in East Asian Stock Indexes. [READ MORE](#)

Nordic-Baltic-US Cyber Consultation

The Ninth annual Nordic-Baltic + U.S. Cyber Consultation (NB8 + U.S.) met in Tallinn, Estonia on May 28. U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Cyberspace Security Liesyl Franz led the U.S. delegation and advocated the United States' International Cyberspace and Digital Policy Strategy. [READ MORE](#)

Exim Updates Country Limits

A new Country Limitation Schedule (CLS) with the following cover policy changes is effective May 30, 2024. The CLS indicates where EXIM is "open for cover" and where EXIM is "off-cover." [READ MORE](#)

EU Anti Money Laundering Reforms Adopted

The Council adopted May 30 a package of new anti-money-laundering rules that will protect EU citizens and the EU's financial system against money laundering and the financing of terrorism. [READ MORE](#)

WTO & GENEVA

Formal WTO DSS Reform Talks Begin

Many World Trade Organization members called for preserving the two-tier dispute settlement system, including the binding Appellate Body, at the first formal meeting on dispute settlement reform, said people familiar with the discussions.

At the Head of Delegations meeting, the new facilitator, Ambassador Usha Dwaraka-Canabady of Mauritius, explained the process she will follow in the coming days and months. [READ MORE](#)

India Still Rejects IFDA as WTO Rule

India continues to take the position that the Investment Facilitation Agreement for Development Agreement cannot be part of the World Trade Organization's rulebook.

India reiterated its position at the General Council meeting last week, even as the United States, without joining the IFDA, supported its integration into Annex 4 of the Marrakesh Agreement, said people familiar with the development. [READ MORE](#)

African Group's Development Proposal

Several countries, including China, Indonesia, and India among others, strongly supported the African Group's proposal on "policy space for industrial development- advancing WTO Committee work to support structural transformation and industrial development in developing countries" during the WTO's General Council meeting last week, said people familiar with the discussions. [READ MORE](#)

Countries clash over next steps for pandemic treaty talks

Countries are mulling over what to do next after failing to meet a deadline to produce an agreement to prepare for future health crises in two years. African states would like to see a deal this year, while others argue for a longer extension. [READ MORE](#)

SUPPLY CHAIN

CBP Crackdown on China Airfreight Reported

April's announced "enhanced" enforcement of small package imports threatens to bring certain e-commerce activities to a standstill. US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is reportedly inspecting every single ecommerce shipment coming from mainland China by air freight. [READ MORE](#)

Lacey Act Enforcement Update Phase VII

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA, is informing the public of another phase of the Federal Government's enforcement schedule. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 amended the Lacey Act to provide, in part, that importers submit a declaration at the time of importation for certain plants and plant products. [READ MORE](#)

CBP: Dumping and Subsidy Offsets to Affected Producers

Pursuant to the Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act of 2000, this document is U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) notice of intent to distribute assessed antidumping and countervailing duties for Fiscal Year

2024 in connection with countervailing duty orders, antidumping duty orders, and findings under the Antidumping Act of 1921. The provisions of this act allow for anti-dumping and countervailing (AD/CV) duties collected by CBP to be disbursed to domestic producers injured by foreign dumping and subsidies. [READ MORE](#)

AD/CVD Disclosure Process Outlined

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced a process that will allow authorized individuals to access business confidential information in Enforce and Protect Act (EAPA) administrative proceedings, increasing transparency in investigations.

The Administrative Protective Order process will allow eligible parties to apply to receive access to business confidential information contained in the administrative record for cases in which they are subject to the investigation. [READ MORE](#)

USMCA

VW Mexico Target of USMCA Complaint

The United States has asked Mexico to review whether workers at the Volkswagen de México, S.A. de C.V. facility in Cuautlancingo, Puebla, are being denied their rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining. The petition alleges Volkswagen de México dismissed these workers in retaliation for union activity they conducted while serving as union representatives... [READ MORE](#)

USMCA Tractor Parts Case Resolved

The United States announced the successful resolution of the Rapid Response Labor Mechanism (RRM) matter at the Servicios Industriales González, S.A. de C.V. (SIG) facility, a major metal fabricator and supplier for **Caterpillar**, **John Deere** and **Komatsu** in Nuevo Leon.. [READ MORE](#)

USMCA Zinc Mine Case Resolved

United States announced the successful resolution of the second USMCA facility-specific Rapid Response Labor Mechanism (RRM) matter in the mining sector, regarding Minera Tizapa S.A. de C.V, a subsidiary of Industrias Peñoles, S.A.B. de C.V. The facility, a venture of of **Industrias Peñoles** and Japan's **Sumitomo Corp.** and **Dowa Metals & Mining**. Zinc concentrates produced at Tizapa are sent to Japan for processing. ... [READ MORE](#)

EXPORT CONTROL & SANCTIONS

Chinese Export Controls Announced

China has announced export controls on certain equipment, software and technologies in key sectors ranging from aerospace to shipbuilding that matter to national security. Under the new policy, the controlled export products involve equipment and software in key industries, including aerospace structural components and engine manufacturing, gas turbine engine manufacturing, aerospace surface window-related equipment, and ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene fiber-related items, according to the notice. [READ MORE](#)

CBP Renewing ACE Export Manifest for Vessel Cargo Test

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is renewing the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) Export Manifest for Vessel Cargo Test, a National Customs Automation Program (NCAP) test concerning ACE export manifest capability. [READ MORE](#)

Ugandan Officials Sanctioned

The Department of State is publicly designating five current and former Ugandan officials for their involvement in significant corruption or gross violations of human rights.

Included in the action are the Speaker of Parliament, Former Minister of Karamoja Affairs, former Minister of State for Karamoja Affairs, and the Minister of State for Finance. Additionally, the former Deputy Chief of the Ugandan Peoples' Defence Forces is designated due to his involvement in gross violations of human rights [READ MORE](#)

More Iran UAV Sanctions

The US Treasury is targeting four entities associated with OFAC-designated Rayan Roshd Afzar Company (RRA) that have procured critical parts for Iran's unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) program.

Additionally, OFAC is targeting an Iranian executive of Iran Aviation Industries Organization (IAIO), a subsidiary of Iran's Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics that oversees UAV manufacturers Iran Aircraft Manufacturing Industrial Company and Qods Aviation Industries. [READ MORE](#)

More Wagner Group Africa Sanctions

Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned two companies that are linked to the Private Military Company "Wagner" (Wagner Group).

Mining Industries SARLU and Logistique Economique Etrangere SARLU are being designated pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 14024 for enabling Wagner Group security operations and Wagner Group-linked illicit mining endeavors in the Central African Republic (CAR). [READ MORE](#)

ENFORCEMENT

Airline Executive Pleads Guilty in Money Laundering Case

A New Jersey-based airline executive pled guilty to participating in a money laundering conspiracy involving proceeds of healthcare fraud channeled through his employer's bank account. Shukhratjon Mirsaidov was Head of Marketing and Commerce Development at Uzbekistan Airways with a hub at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. [READ MORE](#)

Pig Butchering Scam Arrests

An indictment was unsealed in the Central District of California May 16 charging two Chinese nationals alleging they played leading roles in a scheme to launder proceeds from cryptocurrency investment scams. According to court documents, the conspirators allegedly managed an international syndicate that laundered proceeds of cryptocurrency investment scams, which are also known as “pig butchering.”... [READ MORE](#)

Botnet Ring Arrest, Sanctions

Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated three individuals for their activities associated with the malicious botnet tied to the residential proxy service known as 911 S5. ... [READ MORE](#)

PEOPLE

Former Ways and Means Chair Brady Joins Akin

Former Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady (R-TX) has joined Akin as a senior policy consultant in Washington, D.C.

During his tenure in Congress, Chairman Brady served as the author and driving force in the development of the Tax Cuts & Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA), which is set to expire at the end of 2025, as well as a key leader in the negotiation of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement.. [READ MORE](#)

Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs Toloui Leaving State

Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs Ramin Toloui will be leaving the Department and returning to his teaching position at Stanford University. [READ MORE](#)