United States and Korea Hold First Meeting of the Environmental Affairs Council under the U.S.-Korea Trade Agreement

February 14 - Government officials from the United States and Korea convened the first meeting of the Environmental Affairs Council (EAC) under the U.S.-Korea trade agreement. Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Environment and Natural Resources Jennifer Prescott and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs Judith G. Garber co-chaired today's EAC meeting for the United States. The U.S. delegation included representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Justice, and the Department of the Interior.

At the EAC meeting, officials reviewed implementation of the Environment Chapter of the U.S.-Korea trade agreement. Korean officials highlighted developments in Korea in a wide range of areas, including initiatives to protect air and water resources and public health.

To read further on this please click here.

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Weekly Trade Spotlight: Special 301 Report

What They're Saying: The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (Part 2)

Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Demetrios Marantis Participates in U.S. Launch of Strategy to Mitigate Trade Secret Theft

Cross Post: Launch of the Administration's Strategy to Mitigate the Theft of U.S. Trade Secrets

Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP): 16th Round of TPP Negotiations Set for Singapore

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RECENT EVENTS

Ambassador Kirk met with Swedish Minister of Trade Ewa Björling.

Ambassador Siddiqi met with General Director Eric Allain from the French Ministry for Agriculture, Food Industry and Forestry to discuss bilateral trade issues.

Ambassador Punke will represent the United States at a meeting of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Trade Negotiations Committee in Geneva, Switzerland.
Members of the interagency Special 301 Subcommittee listen to testimony from government representatives, stakeholder organizations, and private sector groups.

February 21 - The interagency Special 301 Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee, which produces the annual Special 301 Report on intellectual property, held a public hearing yesterday to gather information from public, private, and non-profit sector stakeholders as it prepares the 2013 Special 301 Report. The Special 301 Subcommittee, which is chaired by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) and includes representatives from the Departments of State, Commerce, Health and Human Services, and Agriculture, as well as the Patent and Trademark Office, Copyright Office, and Council of Economic Advisors, is tasked with reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of U.S. trading partners' protection and enforcement of IPR. The Special 301 Report highlights the United States' concerns about the protection and enforcement of IPR around the globe - an issue that directly affects an estimated 27 million American jobs in intellectual property-intensive industries, according to a 2012 report by the Department of Commerce.

Click here to read the rest of the post.

What They're Saying: The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (Part 2)

February 14 - Even more stakeholders have weighed in to voice their support for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership negotiations, which Ambassador Kirk described as beneficial for "jobs, economic growth and international competitiveness on both sides of the Atlantic." Click here to see what they are saying.

Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Demetrios Marantis Participates in U.S. Launch of Strategy
to Mitigate Trade Secret Theft

Ambassador Marantis speaks at the launch event for the Administration's Strategy to Mitigate Trade Secret Theft

**February 20** - This week, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Demetrios Marantis was on hand as the White House launched its strategy to mitigate the theft of U.S. trade secrets and protect American businesses in the international marketplace. The Obama Administration is focused on protecting the innovation that drives the American economy and supports jobs in the United States. Ambassador Marantis, along with officials from the Departments of Justice, State, Commerce and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and private sector representatives, spoke about the importance of protecting trade secrets to preserving our nation's economic and national security. He touched on tools the government can use to address trade secret theft, highlighting the effectiveness of trade negotiations and frameworks like the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the U.S. and China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade, and the Special 301 Report.

Click [here](#) to read more.

**Cross Post: Launch of the Administration's Strategy to Mitigate the Theft of U.S. Trade Secrets**

*Note: This is a cross post from the Office of Management and Budget's blog. To see the original post, please click [here](#).*

By Victoria Espinel, U.S. Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator

**February 20** - I am pleased to announce the Administration's Strategy on Mitigating the Theft of U.S. Trade Secrets. Trade secret theft can cripple a company's competitive advantage in foreign markets, diminish export prospects around the globe, and put American jobs in jeopardy. The President is committed to preventing the theft of corporate trade secrets. As he clearly expressed in his State of the Union Speech, "we cannot look back years from now and wonder why we did nothing in the face of real threats to our security and our economy."

The Strategy that we are releasing today coordinates and improves U.S. Government efforts to protect the innovation that drives the American economy and supports jobs in the United States. As the Strategy lays out, we are taking a whole of government approach to
stop the theft of trade secrets by foreign competitors or foreign
governments by any means - cyber or otherwise.

Click here to read more.

Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP): 16th Round of TPP Negotiations Set for Singapore

The 16th round of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations will take place at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel in Singapore from March 4-13, 2013. Registration is now open for TPP stakeholders interested in participating in stakeholder events.

Click here for more on stakeholder engagement.

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