

and planning programs to improve productivity and the use of the SSA workforce. It conducts studies and analyses of work processes and procedures, workflow and workload processing positions; applies a variety of disciplines and techniques, including management analysis and model building to assure best workforce utilization; and recommends action to top SSA executives for improving the effectiveness of the SSA workforce. It develops, analyzes and interprets workforce-forecasting data and projects future workforce needs, including the types of skills and positions required. It directs, develops and conducts Agency-wide reviews and studies, using industrial engineering, model building and other scientific approaches and methodologies. The results of its studies on workforce effectiveness will allow Agency executives to evaluate competitive sourcing efforts that may result in new planning strategies.

F. The Office of Competitive Sourcing provides a variety of high level coordinative, analytical, consultative and advisory services in the interpretation and application of the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998 (FAIR Act) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-76. A-76 requires the evaluation of Agency functions with regard to competitive sourcing. The office serves as the principal technical authority on the public/private competition of commercial activities. Based on the analysis and interpretation of Congressional and OMB requirements, the office develops Agency-wide policy, procedures and strategy, in consultation with the Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner and the Chief Strategic Officer, for the implementation of the FAIR Act and OMB's A-76 requirements. It is responsible for ensuring that the commercial activity inventories satisfy legislative and regulatory requirements for the analysis of commercial activities. It resolves critical legal and technical issues with OMB staff. The office also provides components with expert assistance in conducting commercial activity cost comparison studies to improve processes and work efficiencies.

Dated: December 20, 2002.

Jo Anne B. Barnhart,

Commissioner of Social Security.

[FR Doc. 02-32993 Filed 12-30-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4243]

Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition Determinations: "Sargent and Italy"

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following determinations: Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985; 22 U.S.C. 2459), Executive Order 12047 of March 27, 1978, the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2681, *et seq.*; 22 U.S.C. 6501 note, *et seq.*), Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999, and Delegation of Authority No. 236 of October 19, 1999, as amended, I hereby determine that the objects to be included in the exhibition "Sargent and Italy," imported from abroad for temporary exhibition within the United States, are of cultural significance. The objects are imported pursuant to loan agreements with the foreign owners. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the exhibit objects at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA, from on or about February 2, 2003, to on or about May 11, 2003; the Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO, from on or about June 28, 2003, to from or about September 21, 2003, and at possible additional venues yet to be determined, is in the national interest. Public Notice of these Determinations is ordered to be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, including a list of the exhibit objects, contact Julianne Simpson, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State, (telephone: (202) 619-6529). The address is U.S. Department of State, SA-44, 301 4th Street, SW., Room 700, Washington, DC 20547-0001.

Dated: December 23, 2002.

Patricia S. Harrison,

Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 02-32997 Filed 12-30-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES)

[Public Notice 4245]

Proposed U.S.-Chile Environmental Cooperation Agreement

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of State, through its Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, informs the public that negotiations for a U.S.-Chile Environmental Cooperation Agreement (ECA) are expected to commence in Santiago, Chile, on January 15, 2003. This notice seeks comment from the public regarding priority areas for bilateral environmental cooperation.

DATES: Comments related to priority areas for bilateral environmental cooperation with Chile must be received by noon (EST) on January 13, 2003, in order to ensure timely input into the negotiations.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be sent by fax to 202-647-5947 or 202-647-1052.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Luke Ney, Department of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Office of Environmental Policy, telephone 202-647-6867, e-mail neyla@state.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 11, 2002 the governments of the United States of America and the Republic of Chile completed negotiations on a comprehensive bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The Environment Chapter of this FTA outlines a two-part structure for environmental cooperation: (1) Eight ongoing projects that are to commence immediately, and (2) the future establishment of an Environmental Cooperation Agreement (ECA) that is intended to serve as a framework for certain bilateral cooperative environmental activities. The Environment Chapter furthers the objectives of the Trade Act of 2002, including Section 2101(c)(3), which calls upon the President to "seek to establish consultative mechanisms among parties to trade agreements to strengthen the capacity of the United States trading partners to develop and implement standards for the protection of the environment and human health based on sound science."

The proposed ECA will, *inter alia*, establish a framework for environmental cooperation and create mechanisms that provide for periodic work programs, allow for consultation between the parties, and make available opportunities for information exchange and public comment. The ECA may include work in fields of activity such as improving capacity for environmental compliance assurance, promoting sustainable management of