

ACTION: Institution of an investigation and scheduling of a hearing under section 204(d) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2254(d)) (the Act).

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 204(d) of the Act, the Commission has instituted investigation No. TA-204-11, Certain Steel Wire Rod: Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Import Relief, for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of the relief action imposed by the President on imports of certain steel wire rod under section 203 of the Act, which terminated on March 1, 2003.

Background

The President imposed the relief action on March 1, 2000, in the form of a tariff-rate quota following receipt of an affirmative injury determination and relief recommendation from the Commission on July 12, 1999. The relief was imposed for a period of 3 years and 1 day. See Proclamation 7273 of February 16, 2000 (65 FR 8621), as modified by Proclamation 7205 of November 21, 2001 (66 FR 59353). Section 204(d) of the Act requires the Commission, following termination of a relief action, to evaluate the effectiveness of the action in facilitating positive adjustment by the domestic industry to import competition, consistent with the reasons set out by the President in the report submitted to the Congress under section 203(b) of the Act. The Commission is required to submit a report on the evaluation to the President and the Congress no later than 180 days after the day on which the relief action terminated 203(b) of the Act.

For further information concerning the conduct of this investigation, hearing procedures, and rules of general application, consult the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, part 201, subparts A through E (19 CFR part 201, subparts A through E), and part 206, subparts A and F (19 CFR part 206, subparts A and F).

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 11, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Taylor (202) 708-4101 or Jim McClure ((202) 205-3191), Office of Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20436. Hearing-impaired persons can obtain information on this matter by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal on (202) 205-1810. Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Office of the Secretary at (202) 205-2000. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by

accessing its internet server (<http://www.usitc.gov>). The public record for this investigation may be viewed on the Commission's electronic docket (EDIS-ON-LINE) at <http://dockets.usitc.gov/eol/public>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Participation in the investigation and service list.—Persons wishing to participate in the investigation as parties must file an entry of appearance with the Secretary to the Commission, as provided in section 201.11 of the Commission's rules, not later than 14 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. The Secretary will prepare a service list containing the names and addresses of all persons, or their representatives, who are parties to this investigation upon the expiration of the period for filing entries of appearance.

Public hearing.—As required by statute, the Commission has scheduled a hearing in connection with this investigation. The hearing will be held beginning at 9:30 a.m. on June 26, 2003, at the U.S. International Trade Commission Building. Requests to appear at the hearing should be filed in writing with the Secretary to the Commission on or before June 19, 2003. All persons desiring to appear at the hearing and make oral presentations should attend a prehearing conference to be held at 9:30 a.m. on June 23, 2003, at the U.S. International Trade Commission Building. Oral testimony and written materials to be submitted at the hearing are governed by sections 201.6(b)(2) and 201.13(f) of the Commission's rules. Parties must submit any request to present a portion of their hearing testimony *in camera* no later than 7 days prior to the date of the hearing.

Written submissions.—Each party is encouraged to submit a prehearing brief to the Commission. The deadline for filing prehearing briefs is July 3, 2003. Parties may also file posthearing briefs. The deadline for filing posthearing briefs is July 3, 2003. In addition, any person who has not entered an appearance as a party to the investigation may submit a written statement concerning the matters to be addressed in the report on or before July 3, 2003. All written submissions must conform with the provisions of section 201.8 of the Commission's rules; any submissions that contain confidential business information must also conform with the requirements of section 201.6 of the Commission's rules. The report that the Commission sends to the President may include confidential business information. The

Commission's rules do not authorize filing of submissions with the Secretary by facsimile or electronic means, except to the extent permitted by section 201.8 of the Commission's rules, as amended, 67 FR 68036 (November 8, 2002).

In accordance with section 201.16(c) of the Commission's rules, each document filed by a party to the investigation must be served on all other parties to the investigation (as identified by the service list), and a certificate of service must be timely filed. The Secretary will not accept a document for filing without a certificate of service.

Authority: This investigation is being conducted under the authority of section 204(d) of the Trade Act of 1974; this notice is published pursuant to section 206.3 of the Commission's rules.

By order of the Commission.
Issued: April 15, 2003.

Marilyn R. Abbott,

Secretary to the Commission.

[FR Doc. 03-9683 Filed 4-18-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of the Secretary

Bureau of International Labor Affairs; Request for Information Concerning Labor Rights in Morocco and Its Laws Governing Exploitative Child Labor

AGENCIES: Office of the Secretary, Labor; Office of the United States Trade Representative and Department of State.

ACTION: Request for public comments.

SUMMARY: This notice is a request for public comments to assist the Secretary of Labor, the United States Trade Representative, and the Secretary of State in preparing reports regarding labor rights in Morocco and describing the extent to which Morocco has in effect laws governing exploitative child labor. The Trade Act of 2002 requires reports on these issues and others when the President intends to use trade promotion authority procedures in connection with legislation approving and implementing a trade agreement. On October 1, 2002, in accordance with section 2104(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 2002, the United States Trade Representative (USTR), Ambassador Robert B. Zoellick, notified the Congress of the President's intent to enter into trade negotiations with Morocco. The interagency Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) invited the public to provide written comments and/or oral testimony at a public hearing conducted on November 21, 2002, to assist USTR in formulating positions and proposals

with respect to all aspects of the negotiations (67 FR 63954) (Oct. 16, 2002). The first round of the U.S.-Morocco FTA negotiations took place January 20–24 in Washington, DC, and a second round took place in Geneva, Switzerland March 24–28. A third round is scheduled for June, with negotiations expected to be completed by the end of 2003. An agreement resulting from these negotiations will be subject to trade promotion authority procedures. The President assigned the functions of preparing reports regarding labor rights and the existence of laws governing exploitative child labor to the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the United States Trade Representative. The Secretary of Labor further assigned these functions to the Secretary of State and the United States Trade Representative.

DATES: Public comments should be received no later than 5 p.m. June 5, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Persons submitting comments are strongly advised to make such submissions by electronic mail to the following address: FRFTAMorocco@dol.gov. Submissions by facsimile may be sent to: Betsy White at the Office of International Economic Affairs, Bureau of International Labor Affairs (202) 693–4851.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions regarding the submissions, please contact Betsy White, Office of International Economic Affairs, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, at (202) 693–4919, facsimile (202) 693–4851. These are not toll-free numbers. Substantive questions concerning the labor rights report and/or the report on Morocco's laws governing exploitative child labor should be addressed to Jorge Perez-Lopez, Office of International Economic Affairs, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210, telephone (202) 693–4883.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Trade Act of 2002 (Pub.L. 107–210) (the Trade Act) sets forth special procedures (Trade Promotion Authority) for approval and implementation of Agreements subject to meeting conditions and requirements in the Act. Division B of the Trade Act, entitled the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002. The Trade Act includes negotiating objectives and a listing of priorities for the President to promote in order to “address and maintain United States competitiveness in the global economy” in pursuing future trade

agreements 19 U.S.C. 3802(a)–(c). The President delegated several of the functions in section 3802(c) to the Secretary of Labor. (E.O. 13277). These include the functions set forth in section 2102(c)(8), which requires that the President “in connection with any trade negotiations entered into under this Act, submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a meaningful labor rights report of the country, or countries, with respect to which the President is negotiating” and the function in section 2102(c)(9), which requires that the President “with respect to any trade agreement which the President seeks to implement under trade authorities procedures, submit to the Congress a report describing the extent to which the country or countries that are parties to the agreement have in effect laws governing exploitative child labor.” The notification letters to the Congress regarding the President's intent to enter into trade negotiations with Morocco be found on the USTR Web site at <http://www.ustr.gov/releases/2002/2002-10-01-morocco-house.PDF> and <http://www.ustr.gov/releases/2002/2002-10-01-morocco-senate.PDF>.

II. Information Sought

Interested parties are invited to submit written information as specified below to be taken into account in drafting the required reports. Materials submitted should be confined to the specific topics of the reports. In particular, agencies are seeking written submissions on the following topics:

1. Morocco's labor laws, including laws governing exploitative child labor, and Morocco's implementation and enforcement of such laws and regulations;
2. The situation in Morocco with respect to core labor standards;
3. Steps taken by Morocco to comply with International Labor Organization Convention 182 on the worst forms of child labor; and
4. The nature and extent, if any, of exploitative child labor in Morocco.

Section 2113(6) of the Trade Act defines “core labor standards” as:

- (A) The right of association;
- (B) The right to organize and bargain collectively;
- (C) A prohibition on the use of any form of forced or compulsory labor;
- (D) A minimum age for the employment of children; and
- (E) Acceptable conditions of work with respect to minimum wages, hours of work, and occupational safety and health.

III. Requirements for Submissions

This document is a request for facts or opinions submitted in response to a general solicitation of comments from the public. To ensure prompt and full consideration of submissions, we strongly recommend that interested persons submit comments by electronic mail to the following e-mail address: FRFTAMorocco@dol.gov. Persons making submissions by e-mail should use the following subject line: “Morocco: Labor Rights and Child Labor Reports.” Documents should be submitted in WordPerfect, MSWord, or text (.TXT) format. Supporting documentation submitted as spreadsheets is acceptable in Quattro Pro or Excel format. Persons who make submissions by e-mail should not provide separate cover letters; information that might appear in a cover letter should be included in the submission itself. Similarly, to the extent possible, any attachments to the submission should be included in the same file as the submission itself, and not as separate files. Written comments will be placed in a file open to public inspection at the Department of Labor, Room S–5317, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington DC and in the USTR Reading Room in Room 3 of the annex of the Office of the USTR, 1724 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20508. An appointment to review the file at the Department of Labor may be made by contacting Betsy White at (202) 693–4919. An appointment to review the file at USTR may be made by calling (202) 395–6186. The USTR Reading Room is generally open to the public from 10 a.m.—12 noon and 1–4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Appointments must be scheduled at least 48 hours in advance.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 16th of April 2003.

Thomas B. Moorhead,

Deputy Under Secretary for International Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of the Secretary

**Bureau of International Labor Affairs;
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Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and
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