

1999, the EC announced a second attempt to reform its banana regime, which would comprise a two-stage process involving a transition period during which a TRQ system would be applied with preferential access for African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, after which a tariff-only regime would be introduced. The transition period was to end no later than January 1, 2006. This two-stage proposal was memorialized in separate understandings reached with the United States and Ecuador in April 2001. Documents related to this longstanding dispute are available in the USTR reading room and on the WTO Web site, <http://www.wto.org>.

Article 21.5 Proceeding

On January 1, 2006, the EC implemented a new import regime for bananas which consists of: (1) A zero-duty, 775,000 ton TRQ available only to bananas originating in ACP countries; and (2) an MFN duty of 176 euros per ton for all other bananas.

The United States considers that the EC has failed to implement the DSB's recommendations and rulings and that the EC's regime remains inconsistent with its WTO obligations. The United States considers that the EC's current import regime for bananas is:

(1) Inconsistent with Article I of the GATT 1994 because it applies a zero-duty TRQ to imports of bananas originating in ACP countries in a quantity up to 775,000 tons but does not accord the same duty-free treatment to imports of bananas originating in all other WTO Members; and

(2) Inconsistent with Article XIII of the GATT 1994—including Article XIII:1 and XIII:2—because it reserves the 775,000 ton zero-duty TRQ for imports of bananas originating in ACP countries but does not provide access to this preferential TRQ to imports of bananas originating in non-ACP substantial or non-substantial supplying countries.

Public Comment: Requirements for Submissions

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning the issues raised in the dispute. Comments should be submitted (i) electronically, to FR0718@ustr.eop.gov, with "EC Bananas (DS27)" in the subject line, or (i) by fax, to Sandy McKinzy at (202) 395-3640, with a confirmation copy sent electronically to the electronic mail address above.

USTR encourages the submission of documents in Adobe PDF format as attachments to an electronic mail. Interested persons who make submissions by electronic 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.

Comments must be in English. A person requesting that information contained in a comment submitted by that person be treated as confidential business information must certify that such information is business confidential and would not customarily be released to the public by the commenter. Confidential business information must be clearly designated as such and "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" must be marked at the top and bottom of the cover page and each succeeding page. Persons who submit confidential business information are encouraged to also provide a non-confidential summary of the information.

Information or advice contained in a comment submitted, other than business confidential information, may be determined by USTR to be confidential in accordance with section 135(g)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155(g)(2)). If the submitter believes that information or advice may qualify as such, the submitter—

- (1) Must clearly so designate the information or advice;
- (2) Must clearly mark the material as "SUBMITTED IN CONFIDENCE" at the top and bottom of the cover page and each succeeding page; and
- (3) Is encouraged to provide a non-confidential summary of the information or advice.

Pursuant to section 127(e) of the URAA (19 U.S.C. 3537(e)), USTR will maintain a file on this dispute settlement proceeding, accessible to the public, in the USTR Reading Room, which is located at 1724 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508. The public file will include non-confidential comments received by USTR from the public with respect to the dispute; if a dispute settlement panel is convened or in the event of an appeal from such a panel, the U.S. submissions, the submissions, or non-confidential summaries of submissions, received from other participants in the dispute; the report of the panel and, if applicable, the report of the Appellate Body. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public, by appointment only, from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. An appointment to review the public file (Docket WTO/DS-27, EC Bananas Dispute) may be made by

calling the USTR Reading Room at (202) 395-6186.

Daniel E. Brinza,

Assistant United States Trade Representative for Monitoring and Enforcement.

[FR Doc. 07-4341 Filed 9-5-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-W7-M

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket No. WTO/DS350]

WTO Dispute Settlement Proceeding Regarding Measures Related to Zeroing and Certain Investigations, Administrative Reviews and Sunset Reviews Involving Products From the European Communities

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the United States Trade Representative ("USTR") is providing notice that the European Communities ("EC") has requested the establishment of a panel under the *Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization* ("WTO Agreement"). The EC alleges that various measures relating to zeroing and antidumping duty orders on certain products from the EC, and certain related matters, are inconsistent with Articles 1, 2.1, 2.4, 2.4.2, 5.8, 9.1, 9.3, 9.5, 11, and 18.4 of the *Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994* ("AD Agreement"), Article VI of the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994* ("GATT 1994"), and Article XVI:4 of the WTO Agreement. That request may be found at <http://www.wto.org> contained in a document designated as WT/DS350/6. USTR invites written comments from the public concerning the issues raised in this dispute. In connection with the issues raised in the panel request, the public should be aware that on March 6, 2006, the Department of Commerce announced that it will no longer use "zeroing" when making average-to-average comparisons in an antidumping investigation. See 71 FR 11189.

DATES: Although USTR will accept any comments received during the course of the dispute settlement proceedings, comments should be submitted on or before October 26, 2007 to be assured of timely consideration by USTR.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted (i) Electronically, to FR0702@ustr.eop.gov, Attn: "EC Zeroing II (DS350)" in the subject line, or (ii) by fax, to Sandy McKinzy at (202) 395-

3640. For documents sent by fax, USTR requests that the submitter provide a confirmation copy to the electronic mail address listed above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ronald Baumgarten, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508, (202) 395-9622.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 127(b) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act ("URAA") (19 U.S.C. 3537(b)(1)) requires that notice and opportunity for comment be provided after the United States submits or receives a request for the establishment of a WTO dispute settlement panel. Consistent with this obligation, USTR is providing notice that a dispute settlement panel has been requested pursuant to the WTO *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes* ("DSU"). The panel will hold its meetings in Geneva, Switzerland.

Major Issues Raised by the EC

With respect to the measures at issue, the EC's request for establishment of a panel refers to the following:

1. The continued application of, or the application of the specific anti-dumping duties resulting from certain anti-dumping orders specified in the EC request (see list, below) as calculated or maintained in place pursuant to the most recent administrative review or, as the case may be, original proceeding or changed circumstances or sunset review proceeding at a level in excess of the anti-dumping margin which would result from the correct application of the Anti-Dumping Agreement (whether duties or cash deposit rates or other form of measure).

2. Certain specified administrative reviews, or, as the case may be, original proceedings or changed circumstances or sunset review proceedings with the anti-dumping orders specified in the EC request (see list, below).

3. Determinations in relation to all companies and any assessment instructions, whether automatic or otherwise, issued at any time pursuant to the specified antidumping-orders.

The orders, administrative reviews, investigations, and sunset reviews specified by the EC are as follows:

Steel Concrete Reinforcing Bars from Latvia, DOC Case No. A-449-804, ITC Case No. 731-TA-878; 69 FR 74498 (December 14, 2004); 71 FR 74900 (13 December 2006); 71 FR 7016 (February 10, 2006); 72 FR 16767 (April 5, 2007) (Original Order: 66 FR 46777, 7 September 2001).

Ball Bearings from Italy, DOC Case No. A-475-801, ITC Case No. 731-TA-393; 71 FR 40064 (July 14, 2006); 70 FR 54711 (September 16, 2005); 69 FR 55574 (September 15, 2004); 68 FR 35623 (June 16, 2003); 71 FR 51850 (August 31, 2006); 71 FR 54469 (September 15, 2006). (Original Order: 15 May 1989; Continuation Order: 71 FR 54469, 15 September 2006)).

Ball Bearings from Germany, DOC Case No. A-428-801, ITC Case No. 731-TA-392; 71 FR 40064 (July 14, 2006); 70 FR 54711 (September 16, 2005); 69 FR 55574 (September 15, 2004); 69 FR 63507 (November 2, 2004); 68 FR 35623 (June 16, 2003); 70 FR 58383 (October 6, 2005); 71 FR 51850 (August 31, 2006); 71 FR 54469 (September 15, 2006).

Ball Bearings from France, DOC Case No. A-427-801, ITC Case No. 731-TA-391; 71 FR 40064 (July 14, 2006); 70 FR 54711 (September 16, 2005); 69 FR 55574 (September 15, 2004); 69 FR 62023 (October 22, 2004); 68 FR 35623 (June 16, 2003); 68 FR 43712 (July 24, 2003); 70 FR 58383 (October 6, 2005); 71 FR 51850 (August 31, 2006); 71 FR 54469 (September 15, 2006).

Stainless Steel Bar from France, DOC Case No. A-427-820; 70 FR 46482 (August 10, 2005); 71 FR 30873 (May 31, 2006). (Original Order: 67 FR 10385, 7 March 2002).

Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils from Germany, DOC Case No. A-428-825, ITC Case No. 731-TA-798; 71 FR 74897, December 13, 2006); 70 FR 73729 (December 13, 2005); 69 FR 75930 (December 20, 2004); 69 FR 6262 (February 10, 2004); 69 FR 67896 (November 22, 2004); 70 FR 41236 (July 18, 2005); 70 FR 44886 (August 4, 2005). (Original Order: 64 FR 40557, 27 July 1999; Continuation Order: 70 FR 44886, 4 August 2005).

Stainless Steel Plate in Coils from Belgium, DOC Case No. A-423-808, ITC Case No. 731-TA-788; 70 FR 72789 (December 7, 2005); 69 FR 74495 (December 14, 2004); 70 FR 2999 (January 19, 2005); 69 FR 61798 (October 21, 2004); 70 FR 38710 (July 5, 2005); 70 FR 41202 (July 18, 2005). (Original Order: 64 FR 25288, 11 May 1999; Continuation Order: 70 FR 41202, 18 July 2005).

Ball Bearings and parts thereof from the United Kingdom, DOC Case No. A-412-801, ITC Case No. 731-TA-399; 70 FR 54711 (September 16, 2005); 69 FR 55574 (September 15, 2004); 69 FR 62023 (October 22, 2004); 70 FR 58383 (October 6, 2005); 71 FR 51850 (August 31, 2006); 71 FR 54469 (September 15, 2006).

Stainless Steel Bar from Germany, DOC Case No. A-428-830; 71 FR 42802

(July 28, 2006); 71 FR 52063 (September 1, 2006); 69 FR 113 (June 14, 2004).

Certain Hot-rolled Carbon Steel Flat Products from Netherlands, DOC Case No. A-421-807, ITC Case No. 731-TA-903; 70 FR 71523 (December 11, 2006) (Preliminary results); 70 FR 18366 (April 11, 2005); 69 FR 115 (June 16, 2004); 69 FR 43801 (July 22, 2004); 72 FR 7604 (February 16, 2007) (Preliminary Results). (Original Order: 66 FR 55637, 2 November 2001).

Stainless Steel Bar from Italy, DOC Case No. A-475-829, 69 FR 113 (June 14, 2004). (Original Order: 67 FR 10384, 7 March 2002).

Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils from Italy, DOC Case No. A-475-824, ITC Case No. 731-TA-799; 70 FR 7472 (February 14, 2005); 70 FR 13009 (March 17, 2005); 68 FR 69382 (December 12, 2003); 69 FR 67896, November 22, 2004; 70 FR 41236 (July 18, 2005); 70 FR 44886 (August 4, 2005). (Original Order: 64 FR 40567, 27 July 1999; Continuation Order: 70 FR 44886, 4 August 2005).

Certain Pasta from Italy, DOC Case No. A-475-818, ITC Case No. 731-TA-734; 72 FR 7011 (February 14, 2007); 70 FR 71464 (November 29, 2005); 70 FR 6832 (February 9, 2005); 69 FR 6255 (February 10, 2004); 69 FR 81 (April 27, 2004); 72 FR 5266 (February 5, 2007). (Original Order 61 FR 143, 24 July 1996; Continuation Order 66 FR 55160, 1 November 2001).

Brass Sheet and Strip from Germany, DOC Case No. A-428-602, ITC Case No. 731-TA-317; 71 FR 4348 (January 26, 2006); 71 FR 14719 (March 23, 2006); 71 FR 16552 (April 3, 2006). (Original Order: 6 March 1987).

Purified carboxymethylcellulose from Sweden, DOC Case No. A-401-808, ITC Case No. 731-TA-1087; 70 FR 28278 (May 17, 2005); 70 FR 39334 (July 7, 2005); 70 FR 39734 (July 11, 2005).

Purified carboxymethylcellulose from the Netherlands, DOC Case No. A-421-811, ITC Case No. 731-TA-1086;

Purified carboxymethylcellulose from Finland, DOC Case No. A-405-803, ITC Case No. 731-TA-1084; 70 FR 28275 (May 17, 2005); 70 FR 39334 (July 7, 2005); 70 FR 39734 (July 11, 2005).

Chlorinated isocyanurates from Spain, DOC Case No. A-469-814, ITC Case No. 731-TA-1083; 70 FR 24506 (May 10, 2005); 70 FR 36205 (June 22, 2005); 70 FR 36562 (June 24, 2005).

Public Comment: Requirements for Submissions

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning the issues raised in this dispute. Persons may submit their comments either (i) Electronically, to FR0702@ustr.eop.gov,

Attn: "EC Zeroing II (DS350)" in the subject line, or (ii) by fax to Sandy McKinzy at (202) 395-3640. For documents sent by fax, USTR requests that the submitter provide a confirmation copy to the electronic mail address listed above.

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(3) Is encouraged to provide a non-confidential summary of the information or advice.

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to review the public file (Docket No. WT/DS-350, EC Zeroing II) may be made by calling the USTR Reading Room at (202) 395-6186. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Daniel E. Brinza,

*Assistant United States Trade Representative,
for Monitoring and Enforcement.*

[FR Doc. E7-17563 Filed 9-5-07; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee; Open Committee Meetings

According to the provisions of section 10 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, October 11, 2007. The meetings will start at 10 a.m. and will be held in Room 5A06A, U.S. Office of Personnel Management Building, 1900 E Street, NW., Washington, DC.

The planned agenda for the Committee meeting includes—

Old Business

- Working Group—Strategic vs. Tactical Issues
- Review of the Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island, Federal Wage System Wage Area
- Review of the New Haven-Hartford, Connecticut, Federal Wage System Wage Area
- Review of the New London, Connecticut, Federal Wage System Wage Area

New Business

- Definition of the Municipality of Bayamón, Puerto Rico, to a Nonappropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Area
- Abolishment of Rock Island, Illinois, as a Nonappropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Area
- North American Industry Classification System Based Federal Wage System Wage Surveys (2007 Update)

Note: The Committee's agenda may be subject to change.

The Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee is composed of a Chair, five representatives from labor unions holding exclusive bargaining rights for Federal blue-collar employees, and five representatives from Federal agencies. Entitlement to membership on the

Committee is provided for in 5 U.S.C. 5347.

The Committee's primary responsibility is to review the Prevailing Rate System and other matters pertinent to establishing prevailing rates under subchapter IV, chapter 53, 5 U.S.C., as amended, and from time to time advise the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

These scheduled meetings will start in open session with both labor and management representatives attending. During the meetings either the labor members or the management members may caucus separately with the Chair to devise strategy and formulate positions. Premature disclosure of the matters discussed in these caucuses would unacceptably impair the ability of the Committee to reach a consensus on the matters being considered and would disrupt substantially the disposition of its business. Therefore, these caucuses will be closed to the public because of a determination made by the Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management under the provisions of section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B). These caucuses may, depending on the issues involved, constitute a substantial portion of a meeting.

Annually, the Chair compiles a report of pay issues discussed and concluded recommendations. These reports are available to the public, upon written request to the Committee.

The public is invited to submit material in writing to the Chair on Federal Wage System pay matters felt to be deserving of the Committee's attention. Additional information on these meetings may be obtained by contacting the Committee at U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee, Room 5526, 1900 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20415, (202) 606-2838.

Dated: August 30, 2007.

Charles E. Brooks,

*Chairman, Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory
Committee.*

[FR Doc. E7-17641 Filed 9-5-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-49-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon written request; copies available from: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Investor Education and Advocacy, Washington, DC 20549-0213.