

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]

BILLING CODE 4191-02-P

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]

BILLING CODE 4710-08-P

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

environmental resources, developing and implementing economic instruments for environmental management, and in other fields as may be agreed by the Parties. Implementation activities may include, *inter alia*, exchanges of technical specialists, organization of joint conferences, and support for collaboration projects.

Jeff Lunstead,

*Director, Office of Environmental Policy,
Bureau of Oceans and International
Environmental and Scientific Affairs,
Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 02-33006 Filed 12-30-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-09-P

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES
TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**

**Opportunity To Apply for Membership
on the U.S.-Japan Private Sector/
Government Commission**

AGENCY: Office of the United States
Trade Representative (USTR).

ACTION: Notice of membership
opportunity.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Government is seeking letters of interest for private sector membership on the U.S. side of the U.S.-Japan Private Sector/Government Commission (Commission) for 2003. President Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi launched the Commission in June 2001 as part of the U.S.-Japan Economic Partnership for Growth (Partnership). The Commission held its inaugural annual meeting in Japan in May 2002. It is expected that the next meeting will be held in Washington, DC in the spring of 2003 on the topic of "Successfully Meeting Economic Challenges in the 21st Century."

DATES: In order to receive full consideration, requests must be received by the Government Secretariat no later than February 12, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Please send requests for consideration on company letterhead by facsimile or letter to the Government Secretariat for the U.S.-Japan Private Sector/Government Commission in care of Harrison Cook, Office of Japan, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 2320, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230, facsimile (202) 482-0469. Requests sent by e-mail will not be considered. Candidates chosen for membership will be notified in writing.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Harrison Cook or Karin Ryerson, Office of Japan, U.S. Department of Commerce,

Room 2320, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230, facsimile (202) 482-0469; or John Neuffer, Office of North Asian Affairs, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508, facsimile (202) 395-3597.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

The U.S. Government seeks letters of interest for private sector membership on the U.S. side of the Commission. President Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi launched the Commission in June 2001 as part of the Partnership. The Commission is made up of U.S. and Japanese government and private sector representatives. It aims to integrate the U.S. and Japanese private sectors more fully into the economic work of the two governments. The Commission will enable U.S. and Japanese private sector representatives to present input—including expertise, observations, and recommendations—on agenda topics agreed to in advance by the two governments. For a description of the goals and structure of the Commission and the Partnership, *see* the Annex to the Joint Statement by President Bush and Prime Minister Koizumi on June 30, 2001, on the Department of Commerce Web site at: <http://www.mac.doc.gov/japan/source/menu/partnership/partnership2.html>.

Topic

The Commission topic is selected annually. The topic in 2003 is "Successfully Meeting Economic Challenges in the 21st Century," and would include discussions on the aging of our societies, technological advances, new business development, expanding globalization, and the rapid integration of key economies into the regional and global economy. The Commission members will likely wish to focus on policies and measures needed to successfully meet these challenges so that our two nations can grow and prosper, including steps to:

- Increase productivity by facilitating corporate revitalization and optimal allocation of human, capital, and other resources;
- Enhance competitiveness of our respective economies;
- Promote growth and improve standards of living in economies with shifting demographics;
- Identify and implement best practices and principles of corporate governance, based on practical experiences in the two countries; and

- Address the changes in the trade and investment environment in the era of globalization.

Duties and Responsibilities of Private Sector Members

Private sector members will serve at the discretion of USTR. Private sector individuals chosen for the Commission will be expected to be fully involved in all necessary preparatory meetings and attend the Commission's annual 2003 meeting, which, as currently envisioned, will be held in Washington, DC in the spring of 2003 in conjunction with a Subcabinet meeting of U.S. and Japanese government officials at the Deputy/Vice-Ministerial level from key economic agencies and ministries and other agencies and ministries appropriate to the Commission's topic. The number of private sector Commission members will be limited and will be determined in coordination with the Government of Japan. Members of the private sector delegation will serve for one term. Members who wish to serve additional terms must apply under the same rules as other future prospective members.

Private sector members are fully responsible for travel, lodging and personal expenses associated with their participation in the Commission. They will receive no compensation. The private sector members will serve in a representative capacity, presenting the views and interests of the particular business sector in which they operate; private sector members are not special government employees. Candidates will be vetted for pending business before USTR and the Department of Commerce. Members from the private sector will be chosen based on criteria set forth in this Notice.

Candidate Eligibility and Selection Procedures

The process for recruiting and selecting Commission members from the U.S. private sector is based on objective, written criteria developed in accordance with the Annex to the Joint Statement by President Bush and Prime Minister Koizumi. A candidate's partisan political activities (including political contributions) are not relevant to and will not be considered part of the selection process.

To be eligible for consideration, each candidate must be a U.S. citizen and not a registered foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938.

All requests for consideration will be reviewed by the Government Secretariat for the Commission, which is composed of officials from USTR and the Department of Commerce. Members of