

[President Obama Announces Plan To Launch Talks On Transatlantic Trade And Investment Partnership; Formal Notice To Congress Will Follow](#)

During the State of the Union Address on February 12, 2013, President Obama announced that the United States will launch comprehensive talks with the European Union regarding the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (“TTIP”). The announcement does not trigger the actual TTIP negotiation process. Under current practice, the Obama Administration will send written notice to Congress 90 days prior to the commencement of formal negotiations, and will consult with Congressional committees including the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee, which are the two committees with primary jurisdiction over international trade matters. The European Union must also request a negotiating mandate from its Member states. [More »](#)

[China Issues Guidelines For The Development Of Energy Sector](#)

To ensure a healthy development of the economy, on January 23, 2013, the State Council of the People’s Republic of China announced the long-awaited *Energy Development 12th Five Year Plan*, one of the 18 national-level key sector-specific plans for the “12th Five Year” period (*i.e.*, 2011 to 2015). [More »](#)

[Federal Circuit Affirms Application Of Antidumping Duties In Magnesium From Russia](#)

On February 8, 2013, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit affirmed a lower court decision in an antidumping case involving imports of magnesium from Russia. In *PSC VSMPO-AVISMA v. United States*, No. 2012-1076 (Fed. Cir. Feb. 8, 2013) (*per curiam*), the court upheld a decision by the U.S. Court of International Trade (“CIT”) that had affirmed a Department of Commerce ruling applying an antidumping rate of 43.58 percent to Russian magnesium producer AVISMA’s imports during a 12-month period beginning on April 1, 2007. [More »](#)

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A Modest, But Significant Step On China Compulsory Certificate Mark Testing And Certification

China confirmed during the 23rd Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (“JCCT”) that foreign-invested firms that provide third-party conformity assessment services (*i.e.*, testing, inspection, and certification of compliance with voluntary standards and technical regulations) will be able to register in China to provide such services in relation to the China Compulsory Certificate (“CCC”) safety and quality mark. China also confirmed that China’s review of applications from foreign-invested firms to participate in CCC mark activities will use the same conditions as those applicable to Chinese domestic entities. The CCC Mark is a mandatory safety and quality mark for products sold in the Chinese market. [More »](#)



ITC Votes To Proceed With Section 337 Investigation On Fellowes Paper Shredders

The U.S. International Trade Commission (“ITC”) voted on January 22, 2013 to institute a Section 337 investigation on certain paper shredders produced in China based on a complaint filed by Fellowes, Inc., an Illinois-based maker of paper shredders. The case relates to a longstanding dispute between the company and its former joint-venture partner in China. This case highlights both the potential risks of manufacturing in foreign jurisdictions and the use of Section 337 litigation to prevent foreign competitors from benefiting from misappropriated trade secrets. [More »](#)

News Of Note

- **Japan And The United States Resolve Beef Over Beef** – On February 1, 2013, a new agreement increasing market access for U.S. beef exports to Japan entered into force. Under the new agreement, Japan will allow imports of beef products from the United States from animals aged 30 months or younger. [More »](#)
- **U.S. Companies Support International Services Trade Agreement** – On January 15, 2013, the United States Trade Representative (“USTR”) Ron Kirk notified Congress that the Obama administration intends to enter negotiations for a new trade agreement on international trade in services. Negotiations will take place with a group of 20 trading partners, including Australia, Japan, Turkey, and Norway. [More »](#)
- **CFIUS Annual Report Shows Trends For 2011** – In December 2012, the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (“CFIUS”) released the public version of its 2011 annual report to Congress. CFIUS is an inter-agency group that reviews foreign investments in U.S. companies or operations in order to assess whether the transactions pose national security risks. [More »](#)
- **U.S. Challenges India’s Domestic Content Requirement For Solar Panels** – On February 6, 2013, the United States requested WTO dispute settlement consultations with the Government of India challenging the domestic content requirements of its national solar program. According to USTR Ron Kirk, India’s program discriminates against American imports by both requiring solar energy producers to use domestically produced solar cells and modules and subsidizing those producers by guaranteeing purchases at above-market rates. [More »](#)
- **U.S. Requests Consultations Over Indonesian Agricultural Import Restrictions** – The United States has requested WTO dispute settlement consultations with Indonesia over import restrictions on various agricultural products. The specific restrictions at issue include import licensing requirements on horticultural products such as fruits, vegetables, flowers, dried fruits and vegetables, and juices. [More »](#)

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