

### ***The Sanctions Divide: The White House Pushes to Ease Trade Restrictions on Iran While Congress Contemplates a New Round of Sanctions Legislation***

On November 24, 2013 in Geneva, the five members of the UN Security Council – United States, United Kingdom, France, China, and Russia, plus Germany ("P5+1"), agreed on a Joint Plan of Action ("JPA") to lift some of the existing sanctions against Iran. This is to be done in exchange for confidence-building measures from Tehran to limit certain aspects of its nuclear activities. [More »](#)

### **Energy Industry Helps U.S. Set Exports Record**

The U.S. Census Bureau announced in December that U.S. exports in October 2013 were the highest of any month on record. The \$192.7 billion of exports eclipsed exports from October 2012 by \$10 billion, and the U.S. trade deficit decreased by over \$2 billion from September to October. The jump in exports from October 2012 to October 2013 resulted from increased exports of many goods, including petroleum products, consumer goods, and cars and car parts. [More »](#)

### **China Challenges Numerous U.S. Dumping Determinations**

China filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization ("WTO") last month, claiming that the United States had improperly conducted antidumping investigations and administrative reviews related to 13 different products from China. The Government of China reported that the challenged proceedings covered a total Chinese export value of \$8.4 billion. Antidumping investigations determine whether imported products have been sold at unfairly low prices, and such investigations may result in the application of additional duties. China's complaint alleges that the United States violated its obligations under the WTO by applying excessive antidumping duties on imports of certain products from China as a result of the investigations. [More »](#)

### **A Successful Conclusion to the WTO Bali Ministerial**

The WTO's Ninth Ministerial Conference was held in Bali, Indonesia on December 3-7, 2013. Acceptance of the "Bali Package" was by no means an assured outcome as Geneva-based negotiators were unable to finalize negotiations before the Bali conference. Yet, WTO Members pursued tough political decisions overnight on

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Friday December 6th and produced the first multilateral trade agreement under the WTO in two decades. [More »](#)

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## News Of Note

- **Steel Trade Cases Go Forward With Affirmative ITC Votes** – During the fourth quarter of 2013 there were affirmative, preliminary injury determinations by the International Trade Commission ("ITC") in antidumping and countervailing duty investigations on Non-Oriented Electrical Steel ("NOES") from China, Germany, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and Sweden and Grain-Oriented Electrical Steel ("GOES") from China Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, Korea, Poland, and Russia. [More »](#)
  - **Public Hearing Scheduled For The ITC's 332 Investigations On African Growth & Opportunities Act** – As part of its ongoing review of the African Growth and Opportunities Act ("AGOA"), the ITC has scheduled a public hearing for stakeholders in the program on January 14, 2014. [More »](#)
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