

# Trade & Manufacturing Alert

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## U.S. Department Of Commerce Releases Reports And Recommendations In Steel, Aluminum National Security Investigation

*Clint Long*

On February 16, the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) released its reports and recommendations to President Trump regarding its investigations on the impact of steel and aluminum imports on U.S. national security. As [previously reported](#), Commerce initiated these investigations in April 2017 pursuant to section 232(b)(1)(A) of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. [In its reports](#), Commerce “found that the quantities and circumstances of steel and aluminum imports ‘threaten to impair the national security,’ as defined by Section 232.” The reports recommend a variety of actions that President Trump may take in response to the findings, and President Trump is currently reviewing these recommendations. [More »](#)

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## Congress Evaluates CFIUS Reform Proposal

*Alexis Early*

The interagency Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) reviews inbound foreign investment for national security concerns. In particular, CFIUS reviews transactions that would result in foreign “control” over a U.S. business, which is defined broadly. The CFIUS review process is nominally voluntary, but many parties choose to file because CFIUS clearance of a deal provides a safe harbor against future government review. [More »](#)

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## Brexit Update: Negotiations Move To The Next Phase After Joint Report

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### News of Note

- White House Issues National Infrastructure Initiative
- President Trump Seeks Increased Funding For Key Trade Agencies
- GSP Renewal Update

The UK Government has begun to outline British objectives for a trade deal with the EU based on alignment and “mutual recognition” of each other’s regulatory regimes in sectors such as chemicals and automobiles and “managed divergence” in other areas of regulation. This approach has been rejected by the EU. Business groups, trade unions and the opposition Labour Party, meanwhile, have agreed on a broad approach to keeping the UK in customs union with the EU. [More »](#)

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## **NAFTA Renegotiations Update: Sixth Round Completed, Seventh Round Under Way**

*Manuel Sánchez Miranda*

The sixth round of talks regarding the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) were held in Montreal, Canada, from January 23-28, 2018. During that session, the Parties reportedly concluded a chapter on anti-corruption and made significant progress in other areas such as digital trade, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical regulations, telecommunications, and certain subsectors (*i.e.*, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and cosmetics) for which an industry-specific annex is being pursued. The chapter on anti-corruption is the third one to be concluded, adding to the previously closed chapters on competition and small and medium enterprises. Even against this backdrop of apparent success on certain chapter-specific topics, United States Trade Representative (USTR) Robert E. Lighthizer warned about the negotiations “progressing very slowly” and urged all parties “to move much faster.” [More »](#)

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## **News of Note**

- **White House Issues National Infrastructure Initiative – *Elizabeth Owerbach*** – On February 12, 2018, President Trump announced the American Infrastructure Initiative. This is a legislative agenda with six core principles: [More »](#)
- **President Trump Seeks Increased Funding For Key Trade Agencies – *Betre Gizaw*** – The Trump Administration’s budget, released to Congress on February 12, 2018, includes funding proposals for key agencies involved in the full spectrum of international trade-related legal and policy matters, including antidumping and countervailing duty proceedings and other trade enforcement matters and negotiations of trade deals. [More »](#)

- **GSP Renewal Update**– [Saud Aldawsari](#) – Congress is currently in the process of reauthorizing the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program. The program provides nonreciprocal, duty-free tariff treatment to over 5,000 products imported from designated beneficiary developing countries and least-developed developing countries. [More »](#)
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