

KING & SPALDING

Trade & Manufacturing Alert

**September 2019**

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson Loses Majority In Parliament While Parliament Votes to Delay Brexit

Antoinette Bedros

On September 3, 2019, the Conservative party in the United Kingdom (“UK”) [lost](#) its majority in Parliament when Phillip Lee, a Conservative Member of Parliament (“MP”), defected to join the Liberal Democrats. As a result, Prime Minister Boris Johnson lost his ability to secure Britain’s “hard” or “no-deal” exit from the European Union (“EU”) on October 31, 2019, which he has [promised](#) to achieve on a number of occasions. [More »](#)

U.S.-China Trade Relationship Begins to Thaw After a Period of Tension

Seth Atkisson

The trade relationship between the United States and China has continued to be difficult, especially after both countries announced significant [new tariffs](#) on [each other’s goods](#) in August 2019. Nonetheless, the relationship may be improving, with both countries announcing trade concessions this week and [agreeing](#) to resume trade talks in October 2019. [More »](#)

President Macron Threatens to Block EU-Mercosur Deal Over Brazil’s Failure to Address Amazon Fires

Barbara Medrado

In a statement before the G7 Summit, which was held on August 24-26, 2019, French President Emmanuel Macron [vowed](#) to block the recently negotiated trade deal between the European Union (“EU”) and Mercosur, the South American trade bloc formed by

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Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay, unless Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro takes action to deal with the fires now affecting substantial areas of the Amazon. [More »](#)

Blockchain Continues to Play An Increasingly Important Role in Global Trade

Chris Hyner

With the increasing importance of technology in the world of trade, blockchain technology is quickly taking on an important role in facilitating trade. Blockchain technology is a distributed ledger technology — that is, it is a digitized method of securely recording and verifying information in a transaction. Increasingly, both government and private sector entities are adopting the technology to make transactions in international trade more efficient and secure. [More »](#)

NEWS OF NOTE

- [President Trump and Japan's Prime Minister Abe Announce U.S.-Japan Agreement in Principle on Agricultural and Digital Trade](#) – *Clint Long* – [On August 25, 2019](#), President Trump and Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced that the United States and Japan had reached an agreement "in principle" relating to three trade issues: industrial tariffs, agriculture, and digital trade. U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer explained that the deal on industrial tariffs will result in tariff reductions on certain products, but that existing U.S. tariffs on Japanese automobiles and major automobile parts would not be reduced. President Trump and Prime Minister Abe announced the deal at the G7 summit in France, stating that they hoped to sign an agreement at the United Nations General Assembly this month. [More »](#)
- [Two New Commissioners Join the U.S. International Trade Commission](#) – *Pat Togni* – Two new Commissioners have joined the United States International Trade Commission ("ITC" or the "Commission"). Commissioner [Randolph J. Stayin](#), a Republican from Virginia, was sworn in as a member of the Commission on August 23, 2019, for a term expiring on June 16, 2026. Commissioner [Amy A. Karpel](#), a Democrat from Washington State, was sworn in as a member of the Commission on August 26, 2019, for a term expiring on June 16, 2023. [More »](#)

CONTACTS

[Jeffrey M. Telep](#)

+1 202 626 2390

jtelep@kslaw.com

[Stephen A. Jones](#)

+1 202 626 2950

sajones@kslaw.com

[Neal J. Reynolds](#)

+1 202 626 9252

nreynolds@kslaw.com

[Patrick J. Togni](#)

+1 202 626 2958

ptogni@kslaw.com

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