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January 2018 CFIUS Legislative Update

Betre Gizaw

The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), an inter-agency committee authorized to review transactions that could result in control of a U.S. business by a foreign person, is the primary tool available to the U.S. government to review foreign investments. Recently, CFIUS has more closely scrutinized foreign investments, especially from certain jurisdictions, such as China, and has increasingly recommended to the President that he officially reject proposed transactions for national security reasons. In the last year, parties have also abandoned several transactions, reportedly due to concerns about whether the transaction could withstand the CFIUS review process. These developments have occurred within the context of calls for a more robust review of foreign investment into the United States, coming from various sources within the U.S. government, including from, as we previously outlined, a Department of Defense commissioned report and several members of Congress. [More »](#)

Drilling Down On NAFTA Renegotiations: Energy Sector Primer

Manuel Sánchez Miranda

During the fifth round of talks regarding the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which were held in Mexico City from November 17-21, 2017, the United States Trade Representative (USTR) published its updated negotiating objectives. In the area of industrial goods, USTR expanded on the Trump Administration's goal of "greater regulatory compatibility" by specifically enumerating the following areas: pharmaceuticals, medical services, cosmetics, information and communication technology equipment, motor vehicles, chemicals, and energy efficiency. Further, USTR calibrated negotiating objectives with respect to digital trade, investment, intellectual property, agricultural goods, government

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procurement and small and medium-sized enterprises. [More »](#)

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

Benjamin Bay

On December 8, 2017, the UK and the EU issued a Joint Report on the first phase of negotiations covering Brexit. This document included three significant provisions: [More »](#)

News of Note

- **USTR Initiates Special 301 Review** – *Saud Aldawsari* – The United States Trade Representative (USTR) issued a request for comments and notice of public hearing regarding the 2018 Special 301 Review. [More »](#)
 - **Russia Sanctions Update** – *Elizabeth Owerbach* – The Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), signed into law on August 2, 2017, ushers in a series of amendments and new requirements to the sanctions programs applying to the U.S.-Russia commercial relationship. [More »](#)
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Contacts

Jeffrey M. Telep
jtelep@kslaw.com
+1 202 626 2390

Stephen A. Jones
sajones@kslaw.com
+1 202 626 2950

Patrick J. Togni
ptogni@kslaw.com
+1 202 626 2958

Clinton R. Long
clong@kslaw.com
+1 202 626 2622

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