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Important Decisions Reached in Nairobi at the WTO's 10th Ministerial Conference

Marcus Sohlberg

On December 19, the World Trade Organization (WTO) concluded its 10th Ministerial Conference in Nairobi, Kenya. The Ministerial Conference, which typically is held every two years, is a meeting of the decision-making body of the WTO that ministers from all Members attend and where decisions can be taken on any matters under the multilateral trade agreements. [More »](#)

Congress Passes End of Year Spending Bill Including Repeal of the Oil Export Ban and Other Significant Energy Provisions

Michael A. Andrews

After weeks of intense negotiations and backroom tradeoffs, on Friday, December 18, Congress passed, and President Obama signed into law, a 2,000 page omnibus bill to fund the federal government for fiscal year 2016. The biggest winner may be the nation's energy industry. For decades, the debate about the future of America's energy policy has pitted renewable energy against fossil fuels. The debate has at times been philosophical, partisan and regional. This time, both sides can claim victory. The omnibus bill includes provisions that will end a forty-year-old ban on exporting crude oil from the United States, and it extends for five years critical tax credits for the wind and solar industries. [More »](#)

World Leaders Reach Climate Change Agreement in Paris

Stephen Orava, Nina Howell, and Ben Burnham

On December 12, nearly 200 countries reached an agreement that many have described as a historic turning point for global cooperation in addressing climate change. This article looks at the key elements of the [Paris Agreement](#), its legal status, and its potential implications for international trade. [More »](#)

In This Issue

Important Decisions Reached in Nairobi at the WTO's 10th Ministerial Conference

Congress Passes End of Year Spending Bill Including Repeal of the Oil Export Ban and Other Significant Energy Provisions

World Leaders Reach Climate Change Agreement in Paris

United States and Cuba Launch Talks Over Property Claims

United States Challenges Chinese Tax Exemptions for Aircraft at the WTO

News of Note

- United States Repeals Country of Origin Labeling Legislation, Avoiding Retaliation
- False Claims Act Settlements, Criminal Sentencing, and \$80 Million Civil Cases Highlight Customs and Border Protection Enforcement

United States and Cuba Launch Talks Over Property Claims

Kate Benner

On December 8, the United States and Cuba met for the first talks on a variety of property claims that arose over the last 66 years. The meeting, which occurred a year after the bilateral announcement by Presidents Obama and Raúl Castro that their countries would renew diplomatic relations, addressed expropriation and damages claims, some of which may present a statutory hurdle to full normalization. [More »](#)

United States Challenges Chinese Tax Exemptions for Aircraft at the WTO

Elizabeth Owerbach

On December 8, the United States launched a dispute (DS501) at the World Trade Organization (WTO) regarding tax exemptions on certain Chinese-produced aircraft. The United States has requested consultations with China, which is the first step in the dispute settlement process. [More »](#)

News of Note

- United States Repeals Country of Origin Labeling Legislation, Avoiding Retaliation** – *Joshua Snead* – On December 18, President Obama signed a bill that repealed legislation requiring country of origin labeling (COOL) on beef and pork sold in the United States. [More »](#)
 - False Claims Act Settlements, Criminal Sentencing, and \$80 Million Civil Cases Highlight Customs and Border Protection Enforcement Update** – *Patrick J. Togni* – U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is a critically important partner to U.S. industry for the enforcement of antidumping and countervailing duty (AD/CVD) orders. CBP issued its most recent AD/CVD enforcement update on November 30. [More »](#)
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