

# Trade & Manufacturing Alert



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## Ambassador Lighthizer Testifies Before House Ways and Means Committee On Trade Relationship between United States and China

*Antoinette Bedros*

On February 27, 2019, United States Trade Representative (“USTR”) Robert Lighthizer [testified](#) before the House Ways and Means Committee to address the trade relationship between the United States and China. At the hearing, the Committee members largely focused on the progress being made in the on-going trade agreement talks between the two countries. They also pressed Ambassador Lighthizer on the status of the tariffs imposed on Chinese imports under Section 301. Section 301 is the statute that allows the President to impose duties on imports from countries that do not adequately protect the intellectual property rights of U.S. entities doing business in those countries. [More »](#)

## The United States and the European Union Are Expected To Begin Formal Trade Negotiations Soon

*Chris Hyner and Manuel Sanchez Miranda*

Prospects for a trade agreement between the United States and the European Union improved when the European Parliament’s International Trade Committee passed a resolution [calling](#) for the initiation of formal trade discussions with the United States on February 29, 2019. As a result of the resolution, USTR Robert Lighthizer and European Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström are expected to resume discussions on a number of trade issues, including a possible new trade agreement between the United States and the European Union (“EU”). [More »](#)

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## UK Labor Leader Jeremy Corbyn Announces Support for New Referendum on Brexit

*Seth Atkisson*

In a surprising change from his long-held position that the United Kingdom (“UK”) should leave the European Union (“EU”), Labour Party leader [Jeremy Corbyn announced on February 25, 2019](#), that he would support a second referendum to address whether the UK should remain in the EU. [More »](#)

### NEWS OF NOTE

- [International Trade Commission Initiates Investigation to Assess the Effect of the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill Process on the U.S. Economy](#) – *Clint Long* – [As we reported previously](#), the U.S. Congress reinstated the Miscellaneous Tariff Bills (“MTB”) process when it passed the *American Manufacturing and Competitiveness Act of 2016* (the “Act”). [More »](#)
- [The World Trade Organization Discusses Preferential Treatment for Developing Countries and the Impasse over WTO Appellate Body Appointments at the February 28, 2019 General Council Meeting](#) – *Saud Aldawsari* – On February 28 and March 1st, 2019, the World Trade Organization’s (“WTO”) General Council held a meeting at which the WTO’s General Council discussed two controversial issues facing the international organization: preferential treatment for developing countries and the impasse over WTO Appellate Body (“AB”) appointments. [More »](#)
- [Treasury Imposes Additional Sanctions on Venezuelan Entities, Increasing Economic Pressure on Maduro Regime](#) – *Alexis Early* – The Trump Administration continues to place pressure on the Maduro regime in Venezuela and its allies. [More »](#)

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