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Trump Administration Imposes Tariffs On Imported Large Residential Washing Machines And Imported Solar Cells And Modules

Benjamin Bay

On January 22, 2018, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) [announced](#) that President Trump had approved the imposition of safeguard remedies on imports of large residential washing machines and solar cells and modules. President Trump's actions resulted from safeguard investigations by the independent, bipartisan International Trade Commission (ITC) under Section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974. In both investigations, the ITC determined that increased foreign imports were a substantial cause of serious injury to the domestic manufacturers of large residential washing machines and solar cells and modules, and recommended that the President take action to remedy the injury and facilitate industry adjustment to import competition. Following the ITC's investigations, an interagency team led by USTR, which is known as the Trade Policy Staff Committee, recommended that President Trump take certain actions that are designed to provide relief to U.S. manufacturers. [More »](#)

United States And South Korea Meet To Discuss KORUS

Clint Long

On January 5, 2018, representatives from the United States and South Korea met in Washington, DC to begin negotiations regarding possible changes to the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS). After the day-long discussions, United States Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Lighthizer [said that](#) the two countries "have much work to do to reach an agreement that serves the economic interests of the American people. Our goals are clear: we must achieve fair and reciprocal trade between our two nations. We will move forward as expeditiously as possible to achieve this goal." [More »](#)

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TPP-11 Deal Finalized Without United States

Elizabeth Owerbach

On January 21-22, 2018, trade officials met in Tokyo to finalize the renegotiation of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). As previously reported, TPP negotiations began in 2008 with the aim of providing economic integration across the twelve countries bordering the Pacific Ocean, and the TPP was signed during the closing months of the Obama Administration in February 2016. When President Trump withdrew from the TPP in early 2017, however, the remaining eleven nations—Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam (the TPP-11)—ultimately decided to pursue renegotiations of a similar deal, absent the United States. January’s Tokyo meeting successfully finalized the TPP-11 agreement, which is now set to be signed in March at a ceremony in Chile. [More »](#)

News of Note

- **Could Looming Virtual Private Network Rule Changes In China Further Stimulate “Reshoring” Of American Manufacturing?** – *Alexis Early* – Starting March 31, 2018, China will only allow companies to use Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) from a limited number of VPN providers approved by the government. China’s stated reason for the shift in policy is to prohibit the use of VPNs—which allow secure communications, data transmissions, and web browsing—as workarounds of Chinese censorship. [More »](#)
 - **India As “Alternative Investment Hub” To China?** – *Patrick Togni* – On January 11, 2018, U.S. Ambassador to India Kenneth I. Juster gave a speech entitled U.S.-India Relations: Building A Durable Partnership For The 21st Century. Ambassador Juster’s remarks included a statement that “‘America First’ and ‘Make in India’ are not incompatible”, and that increased “economic interactions and volume of trade” between the United States and India will “lead to collaboration on emerging technologies and create jobs in both countries.” [More »](#)
 - **President Trump’s State Of The Union Address** – *Patrick Togni* – President Trump’s first State of the Union speech clocked in at more than one hour and twenty minutes. President Trump conveyed his Administration’s approach to international trade in a brief segment. [More »](#)
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