



February 2019

The World Trade Organization Predicts “Revolutionary” Impact for Blockchain Technology On Digital Global Trade

Chris Hyner

The World Trade Organization (“WTO”) recently [published](#) its report, entitled “Can Blockchain Revolutionize International Trade?” In the report, the WTO assesses the potential of blockchain technology to digitize global trade flows. The report explicitly acknowledges that blockchain technology is likely to revolutionize international trade processes. It also outlines a planning process for the WTO to address the regulatory challenges presented by the new technology. [More »](#)

Brexit Update: Prime Minister Theresa May Obtains Approval from Parliament to Negotiate New Brexit Agreement with the European Union

Seth Atkisson

On Tuesday, January 29, 2019, British Prime Minister Theresa May [won approval](#) from Parliament to negotiate a revised agreement for the exit of the United Kingdom (“UK”) from the European Union (“EU”). Prime Minister May intends to reopen discussions with the EU over the “backstop” provision to which the UK and the EU sides agreed as part of their November 2018 [draft agreement](#) for the UK’s orderly withdrawal from the EU. The Parliamentary motion called for use of alternative solutions, with most interpreting this as a reference to technological solutions that have already been rejected by the EU as alternatives to a customs union arrangement. [More »](#)

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Congress Moves to Limit the President's Authority to Impose Tariffs on Imports under Section 232

Antoinette Bedros

On January 30, 2019, legislation was introduced in the Senate and House on a bi-partisan basis that would curtail the President's power to impose tariffs for national security reasons. The [Bicameral Congressional Trade Authority Act of 2019](#) was introduced by Senators Pat Toomey (R-PA) and Mark Warner (D-VA), along with Representatives Mike Gallagher (R-WI) and Ron Kind (D-WI). The legislation restricts the President's authority to impose tariffs for national security reasons by amending Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 ("Section 232"). [More »](#)

WTO Members Agree to Negotiate Rules on Global E-Commerce

Manuel Sánchez Miranda

During the recent World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland, a coalition of 76 WTO Members [issued](#) a second Joint Statement on Electronic Commerce on January 25, 2018, outlining their intent to commence trade negotiations on e-commerce. The participating members are expected to meet in March of this year to discuss organizational issues, including a possible timetable for future meetings. [More »](#)

NEWS OF NOTE

- [NAFTA 2.0 Update: USTR Provides Congress with List of Legislative Changes Needed to Implement U.S. Mexico-Canada-Agreement](#) – *Clint Long* – On January 29, 2018, U.S. Trade Representative ("USTR") Robert Lighthizer [notified](#) the Senate Finance Committee of [a list of legislative changes](#) that the USTR considers necessary to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement with the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement ("USCMA"). [More »](#)
- [Representative Duffy Introduces Reciprocal Trade Act in the House of Representatives](#) – *Benjamin Bay* – On January 24, 2019, Representative Sean Duffy (R-Wisconsin) introduced new legislation in the U.S. House of Representative that, if

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enacted into law, would greatly expand Presidential authority to apply tariffs on goods imported into the United States. [More »](#)

- [Senate Commerce Committee Restructures Two Trade and Manufacturing-Related Subcommittees](#) – *Pat Togni* – On January 11, 2019, the Senate Commerce Committee announced that it was [re-structuring several of its subcommittees](#) in order “to exercise oversight more effectively and develop policy” across the numerous Federal agencies that fall within its jurisdiction. [More »](#)

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