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Trade Lines

Policy Intelligence for Global Business Leaders

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Welcome to Trade Lines, your view from DC on the evolving landscape of international trade and regulatory policy. Curated for business leaders and decision-makers, this newsletter delivers timely insights into the issues shaping global commerce—from tariff shifts and supply chain disruptions to legislative developments and compliance trends. Our goal is to help you anticipate change, assess impact, and act with confidence in a fast-moving policy environment.

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Global Signals

WTO schedules first General Council meeting post 14th ministerial conference

The World Trade Organization (WTO) General Council scheduled its first meeting following the 14th ministerial conference held in Cameroon in March, when the body failed to extend a moratorium on duties on e-commerce transactions. The meeting is set for May 6-7, and Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

indicated that the Council may consider an extension of the moratorium and act before the imposition of e-commerce duties, suggesting that the member countries ran out of time to reach consensus during the ministerial. In a recent [op-ed](#) published in the Wall Street Journal, U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Ambassador Jamieson Greer voiced skepticism and said that the failed consensus at the ministerial presented “less certainty on e-commerce and worse prospects for a broader reform agenda.”

In an April 2 [communication](#), Turkey suggested that it supported a long term, but still temporary, renewal of the moratorium on electronic transmission tariffs “provided that its scope and definition are clarified.” During the ministerial, Turkey was one of the countries who objected to adopting a four-year renewal which led to the collapse of the moratorium.

EU engages with the U.S. on Digital Markets Act

USTR Ambassador Greer said on April 7 that the European Union (EU) has begun discussions with the Trump administration on their concerns about the Digital Markets Act and other EU digital regulations. Greer described this as a “fragile issue” at an event in Washington but that, “We are having discussions with the European Commission, I would say, really, for the first time ever on DMA.” Greer noted a fundamental disagreement between the US and the EU on whether anti-monopoly regulations are fair.

Policy Pulse

Trump’s budget proposes funding increases for USTR and BIS

The Trump administration released their [budget request](#) for fiscal year 2027 on April 3. The budget proposes providing \$95 million and 70 additional staff to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, inclusive of funding for the Trade Enforcement Trust Fund administered by USTR. The requested amount is an increase from the \$88 million funding level enacted for fiscal year 2026.

The budget also proposes providing an increase of \$215 million to the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) at the Department of Commerce to “significantly bolster its ability to carry out Section 232 investigations to assess the risks to national security posed by imports across a number of critical sectors.” The budget proposal also includes allocating \$136 million to the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) technology at Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

IEEPA refund proceedings at the Court of International Trade

Judge Richard Eaton at the Court of International Trade (CIT) found in an [April 1 order](#) that CBP has made satisfactory progress on developing a system - the “Consolidated Administration and Processing of Entries” system or CAPE - to refund tariffs paid by importers under the International Economic Emergency Powers Act (IEEPA). While the Judge stated that CBP appears on track to begin accepting CAPE declarations by April 20, he ordered CBP to provide another update by April 14.

Hill Highlights

Bipartisan bill would repeal Section 122 10% tariff

Representatives Jimmy Panetta (D-CA) and Don Bacon (R-NE) introduced the [Stop Global Tariffs Act](#), which would repeal the 10% global tariffs which President Trump imposed under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974. The bill also requires refunds to importers who have paid Section 122 tariffs since February 20, 2026.

In a statement, Rep. Panetta said, "Although Congress abdicated its Constitutional obligations for trade policy over the past few decades, it's past time for us to reclaim our authority from the executive branch not just with lawsuits, but with legislation." Rep. Bacon similarly commented, "Article One, Section Eight, Clause One of the Constitution gives Congress authority over tariffs and trade, and it's time Congress stands on its own two feet and does its job."

A similar bill, the [Reclaim Trade Powers Act](#), was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-GA) in March.

DeLauro calls for major reforms to USMCA agreement

Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), the Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Committee and the chair of the House Trade Working Group, said the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) "in its current form is simply not suited to addressing the current [affordability] crisis that we are experiencing," and called for greater engagement between the Trump Administration and Congressional Democrats during the USMCA review process when speaking at an event organized by Rethink Trade. Rep. DeLauro said USMCA needs major reforms if it is to protect American workers and that "this administration is largely pushing a review process forward with very few changes, which is not what is necessary now, and it's time for Democrats to engage like we did, to improve the deal that President Trump proposed." In her remarks, Rep. DeLauro noted limitations of the USMCA, including a need to strengthen the agreement's rapid response mechanism for labor disputes.

House Appropriations Subcommittee schedules hearing on USTR budget request

On April 16, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science will hold a hearing on the President's budget request for \$95 million in funding for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. Ambassador Jamieson Greer will be the sole witness. Watch the hearing live [here](#).

House Select Committee on China schedules hearing on China and AI

On April 16, the House Select Committee on China will be holding a hearing entitled *China's Campaign to Steal America's AI Edge*. Witnesses will include Dmitri Alperovitch, Chairman of Silverado Policy Accelerator; and Yusuf Mahmood, Director of AI and Emerging Technology at America First Policy Institute.

Check [here](#) for witness updates and to watch the hearing live.

Upcoming Deadlines

April 13: Deadline to submit comments to the ITC in its investigation concerning economic impacts of revoking China's PNTR status.

April 15: Deadline to submit comments and requests to testify to USTR on the section 301 investigations into structural excess capacity and production in manufacturing sectors, and on the section 301 investigation into forced labor.

April 26: Deadline for President to decide whether to act in the section 232 investigation concerning commercial aircraft and jet engines.

May 10: Commerce Department to send the President its findings on its section 232 investigation into wind turbines by this date.

May 11: Deadline to request to appear at ITC's public hearing in its investigation concerning China's state support and pricing practices in the biotechnology sector.

May 17: The ITC holds a public hearing in the ITC's investigation concerning China's state support and pricing practices in the biotechnology sector.

May 30: Commerce Department to send the President its findings on its section 232 investigations into robotics and industrial machinery and PPE, medical consumables, and medical equipment, including devices by this date.

June 26: President to announce any actions on section 232 investigations into drones and polysilicon and derivative products, as well as unmanned aircraft systems and their parts and components.

If you have questions, please contact Blake Harden (blake.harden@ey.com) or Evan Giesemann (evan.giesemann@ey.com).

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