

of the room. Interested persons may seek information by writing to Ensign Christina Paruzynski, Commandant (G-MSO-4), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW., Room 1601, Washington, DC 20593-0001 or by calling (202) 267-2079.

Dated: July 21, 2004.

Clay Diamond,

Executive Secretary, Shipping Coordinating Committee, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 04-17313 Filed 7-28-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4777]

Shipping Coordinating Committee; Notice of Meeting

The U.S. Shipping Coordinating Committee (SHC) will conduct an open meeting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 20 October 2004 in Room 4342 at the Department of Transportation, 400 7th & D Streets, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. The purpose of this meeting is to prepare for the Eighty-Ninth Session of the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Legal Committee (LEG 89) scheduled from 25-29 October 2004.

The provisional LEG 89 agenda calls for the Legal Committee to review the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, 1988, and its Protocol of 1988 relating to Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (SUA Convention and Protocol). Also the Committee will examine the draft Wreck Removal Convention. To be addressed as well is the Provision of Financial Security which includes a progress report on the work of the Joint IMO/ILO Ad Hoc Expert Working Group on Liability and Compensation regarding claims for Death, Personal Injury and Abandonment of Seafarers; and includes follow-up resolutions adopted by the International Conference on the Revision of the Athens Convention relating to the Carriage of Passengers and their Luggage by Sea, 1974. The Legal Committee will examine places of refuge, measures to protect crews and passengers against crimes committed on vessels, fair treatment of seafarers, as well as monitoring of the implementation of the HNS Convention, matters arising from the ninety-second session of the Council. Finally the committee will review technical cooperation: subprogramme for maritime legislation, review the status of Conventions and other treaty instruments adopted as a

result of the work of the Legal Committee, in addition to allotting time to address any other issues that may arise on the Legal Committee's work program.

Members of the public are invited to attend the SHC meeting up to the seating capacity of the room. To facilitate the building security process, those who plan to attend should call or send an e-mail two days before the meeting. Upon request, participating by phone may be an option. For further information please contact Captain William Baumgartner or Lieutenant Martha Rodriguez, at U.S. Coast Guard, Office of Maritime and International Law (G-LMI), 2100 Second Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20593-0001; e-mail mrodriguez@comdt.uscg.mil, telephone (202) 267-1527; fax (202) 267-4496.

Dated: July 21, 2004.

Clay Diamond,

Executive Secretary, Shipping Coordinating Committee, Department of State.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Request for Comments and Notice of Public Hearing Concerning China's Compliance With WTO Commitments

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Request for comments and notice of public hearing concerning China's compliance with its WTO commitments.

SUMMARY: The interagency Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) will convene a public hearing and seek public comment to assist the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) in its preparation of its annual report to the Congress on China's compliance with the commitments that it made in connection with its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

DATES: Persons wishing to testify orally at the hearing must provide written notification of their intention, as well as a copy of their testimony, by noon, Friday, September 10, 2004. Written comments are due by noon, Wednesday, September 15, 2004. A hearing will be held in Washington, DC, on Thursday, September 23, 2004.

ADDRESSES: *Submissions by electronic mail:* FR0437@ustr.eop.gov.

Submissions by facsimile: Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the United States Trade Representative, (202) 395-6143.

The public is strongly encouraged to submit documents electronically rather than by facsimile. (See requirements for submissions below.)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions concerning written comments or participation in the public hearing, contact Gloria Blue, (202) 395-3475. All other questions should be directed to Terrence J. McCartin, Director of Monitoring and Enforcement for China, (202) 395-3900, or Bruce Hirsh, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Monitoring and Enforcement, (202) 395-3582.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Background

China became a member of the WTO on December 11, 2001. In accordance with section 421 of the U.S.-China Relations Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-286), USTR is required to submit, by December 11 of each year, a report to Congress on China's compliance with commitments made in connection with its accession to the WTO, including both multilateral commitments and any bilateral commitments made to the United States. In accordance with section 421, and to assist it in preparing this year's report, the TPSC is hereby soliciting public comment. Last year's report is available on USTR's Internet Web site (at www.ustr.gov/regions/china-hk-mongolia-taiwan).

The terms of China's accession to the WTO are contained in the Protocol on the Accession of the People's Republic of China (including its annexes) (Protocol), the Report of the Working Party on the Accession of China (Working Party Report), and the WTO Agreement. The Protocol and Working Party Report can be found on the Department of Commerce Web page, <http://www.mac.doc.gov/China/WTOAccessionPackage.htm>, or on the WTO Web site, <http://docsonline.wto.org> (document symbols: WT/L/432, WT/MIN(01)/3, WT/MIN(01)/3/Add.1, WT/MIN(01)/3/Add.2).

2. Public Comment and Hearing

USTR invites written comments and/or oral testimony of interested persons on China's compliance with commitments made in connection with its accession to the WTO, including, but not limited to, commitments in the following areas: (a) Trading rights; (b) import regulation (e.g., tariffs, tariff-rate quotas, quotas, import licenses); (c) export regulation; (d) internal policies affecting trade (e.g., subsidies, standards and technical regulations, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, trade-related