

Client Advisory

August 2001

Opportunity to Comment on Draft of Free Trade Area of the Americas Agreement Offered by USTR

The draft text of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) Agreement, which would govern trade relations between virtually all North American and Latin American countries from Canada in the North to Chile in the South, is now available to the public. The agreement seeks to liberalize many areas of international trade, such as agriculture, market access, investment, safeguard measures, government procurement, subsidies, dispute settlement, services, intellectual property and competition policy. The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) is accepting public comments regarding the substance, scope and objectives of the draft FTAA text until August 22, 2001.

With respect to market access, the draft agreement calls for liberalization of tariffs among signatory countries. A schedule of tariff reductions is not included among the released documents, nor are product-specific rules of origin or certificate of origin procedures. Instead, the agreement contains several origin rule “alternatives” or “proposals” for countries to consider as the final agreement language is negotiated.

The release of the draft agreement and the invitation to comment present an excellent opportunity for companies to contribute to the negotiating process. Katten Muchin Zavis Rosenman recommends that companies importing and exporting in the Americas review the terms of the agreement and submit comments to ensure that their interests are protected. In particular, companies should use this opportunity to comment on what the rules of origin should be for their products.

The draft text can be found on the Web at www.ftaa-alca.org. Please feel free to contact any member of Katten Muchin Zavis Rosenman’s Customs and International Trade Practice or Global Trade Advisory Group if you need assistance in drafting comments or if you have any questions.

Customs and International Trade Practice

Myron P. Barlow, Attorney
202 625 3568
myron.barlow@kmzr.com

David M. Dunbar, Partner
312 902 5315
david.dunbar@kmzr.com

Patricia M. Hanson, Partner
312 902 5496
patricia.hanson@kmzr.com

Tammie G. Krauskopf, Attorney
312 902 5228
tammie.krauskopf@kmzr.com

Kathleen M. Murphy, Co-Chair
312 902 5364
kathleen.murphy@kmzr.com

Michael E. Roll, Partner
312 902 5581
michael.roll@kmzr.com

Marianne Rowden, Attorney
312 902 5416
marianne.rowden@kmzr.com

James L. Sawyer, Partner
312 902 5670
james.sawyer@kmzr.com

David R. Stepp, Partner
310 788-4637
david.stepp@kmzr.com

Mark S. Zolno, Co-Chair
312 902 5436
mark.zolno@kmzr.com

Therese Ignich, L.C.B., Paralegal
312 577 8188
therese.ignich@kmzr.com

Craig A. Unruh, L.C.B., Paralegal
312 577 8550
craig.unruh@kmzr.com

Global Trade Advisory Group

(a Division of KMZ Rosenman)

Peter J. Battaglioli,
Customs Audit Specialist
202 625 3788
peter.battaglioli@kmzr.com

Donald P. Luther, Trade Specialist
202 625 3617
donald.luther@kmzr.com

Carolyn DeCuir Palanca,
Trade Specialist
312 577 8009
carolyn.palanca@kmzr.com

Robert J. Pisani, Director
202 625 3556
robert.pisani@kmzr.com

*For further information please contact any of the members of
KMZ Rosenman's Customs and International Trade
Practice or Global Trade Advisory Group.*

*Published for clients as a source of information about current developments in the law. The material contained herein is not to be construed as legal advice or opinion.
© 2002 Katten Muchin Zavis Rosenman. All rights reserved. Katten Muchin Zavis Rosenman is a Law Partnership including Professional Corporations.*

KMZ Rosenman
KATTEN MUCHIN ZAVIS ROSENMAN

www.kmzr.com

525 West Monroe Street
Suite 1600
Chicago, IL 60661-3693
Tel 312.902.5200
Fax 312.902.1061

575 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022-2585
Tel 212.940.8800
Fax 212.940.8776

2029 Century Park East
Suite 2600
Los Angeles, CA 90067-3012
Tel 310.788.4400
Fax 310.788.4471

1025 Thomas Jefferson St., N.W.
East Lobby, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20007-5201
Tel 202.625.3500
Fax 202.298.7570

401 South Tryon Street
Suite 2600
Charlotte, NC 28202-1935
Tel 704.444.2000
Fax 704.444.2050

260 Sheridan Avenue
Suite 450
Palo Alto, CA 94306-2047
Tel 650.330.3652
Fax 650.321.4746

One Gateway Center
Suite 2600
Newark, NJ 07102-5397
Tel 973.645.0572
Fax 973.645.0573

08/12/2002