

United States Trade Representative, (202) 395-6120 or John Winski, Joint Executive Secretary, Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for Trade, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, at (202) 720-6829.

Charlene Barshefsky,

*Acting United States Trade Representative.*

[FR Doc. 96-17428 Filed 7-10-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-M

**Trade Policy Staff Committee: Request for Comments Concerning Basic Telecommunications Services Negotiations Under World Trade Organization's General Agreement on Trade in Services**

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) is soliciting a second round of public comments on the requests made to U.S. negotiating partners in the Group of Basic Telecommunications (GBT) of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). The GATS is one of the Uruguay Round agreements administered by the World Trade Organization. Interested persons are invited to submit their comments on market-opening commitments that should be sought in the basic telecommunications services sector by August 1, 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** William Corbett, Office of Services, Investment and Intellectual Property, Office of the United States Trade Representative, at (202) 395-4510 or Laura B. Sherman, Office of the General Counsel, Office of the United States Trade Representative, at (202) 395-3150.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Group on Basic Telecommunications (GBT) was created in April 1996 by a Decision on Commitments on Basic Telecommunications of the WTO Council on Trade in Services. It is the successor to the Negotiating Group on Basic Telecommunications (NGBT), which was created in April 1994 by a Marrakesh Ministerial Decision with a mandate to conclude talks by April 30, 1996. The New group's charge is to continue negotiations on liberalization of trade in telecommunications transport networks and services within the framework of the General Agreement on Trade in Services. The Decision set the date for entry into force of a prospective agreement as January 1, 1998 and established the period of

January 15 through February 15, 1997 during which current negotiating offers could be modified or supplemented and MFN exceptions could be taken.

These arrangements, sought by the United States, effectively extended the life of negotiations to obtain more and better offers and thereby the critical mass necessary for the United States to maintain its offer.

The United States is in the process of refining requests for market-opening commitments from other countries participating in the GBT. These requests must be submitted by the end of September 1996. A list of countries participating in and observing the GBT is attached.

The United States objective in the negotiations is to obtain levels of openness in the telecom markets of other participants equivalent to the level in the United States. Interested persons are invited to submit their comments on commitments the United States should seek in wire or wireless communications, satellite systems, regulatory schemes, interconnection issues, foreign ownership restrictions, and competition safeguards, among other things.

Comments should be filed no later than August 1, 1996. Comments must be in English and provided in twenty copies to Mr. William Corbett, Office of Services, Investment and Intellectual Property, Office of the United States Trade Representative, Room 301, 600 17th Street, Washington D.C. 20508. Non-confidential information received will be available for public inspection by appointment, in the USTR Reading Room, Room 101, Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. For an appointment call Brenda Webb on 202-395-6186. Business confidential information will be subject to the requirements of 15 CFR § 2003.6. Any business confidential material must be clearly marked as such on the cover letter or page and each succeeding page, and must be accompanied by a non-confidential summary thereof.

Frederick L. Montgomery,  
*Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.*

**WTO Group on Basic Telecommunications**

**Participants in the NGBT**

Argentina  
Australia  
Barbados\*  
Brazil  
Canada  
Chile  
Colombia  
Cote d'Ivoire  
Cuba\*

Cyprus\*  
Czech Republic  
Dominican Republic  
Ecuador  
Egypt\*  
European Union  
Austria  
Belgium  
Denmark  
Finland  
France  
Germany  
Greece  
Ireland  
Italy  
Luxembourg  
Netherlands  
Portugal  
Spain  
Sweden  
United Kingdom  
Hong Kong  
Hungary  
Iceland  
India  
Israel  
Japan  
Korea  
Mauritius  
Mexico  
Morocco  
New Zealand  
Norway  
Pakistan  
Peru  
Philippines  
Poland  
Singapore  
Slovak Republic  
Switzerland  
Thailand  
Tunisia\*  
Turkey  
United States  
Venezuela

**Observes in the NGBT**

Bolivia  
Brunei  
Bulgaria  
China  
Chinese Taipei  
Costa Rica  
El Salvador  
Guatemala  
Honduras  
Indonesia  
Ivory Coast  
Jamaica  
Latvia  
Madagascar  
Malaysia  
Myanmar  
Nicaragua  
Pakistan  
Panama  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Slovenia  
South Africa  
Trinidad & Tobago  
United Arab Emirates  
Uruguay

Participants making offers = 48 governments

(\*) Participants not making offers = 4  
governments  
[FR Doc. 96-17661 Filed 7-10-96; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 3190-01-M

---

**DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY****Treasury Advisory Committee on  
Commercial Operations of the U.S.  
Customs Service**

**AGENCY:** Departmental Offices, Treasury.  
**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the date of the next meeting and the agenda for consideration by the Treasury Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations of the U.S. Customs Service.

**DATES:** The next meeting of the Treasury Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations of the U.S. Customs Service will be held on July 26, 1996 in Washington, D.C. The session will be held from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Due to

the fire that occurred in the Main Treasury Building on June 26, 1996, the usual meeting room will not be available. The meeting will be held at a separate suitable government or private facility, accessible to the public, within 10 or 15 minutes of Treasury by public transportation. The location can be ascertained by calling the information number, a week prior to the meeting.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Dennis M. O'Connell, Director, Office of Tariff and Trade Affairs, Office of the Under Secretary (Enforcement), Room 4004, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220. Tel. (202) 622-0220.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The provisional agenda to be considered at the meeting is as follows:

1. Developments in Line Release on the Southwest border.
2. North American Trade Automation Prototyp (NATAP).

3. Compliance and enforcement issues and challenges particular to the courier industry.

4. Update on implementation of the Customs Modernization Act.

The provisional agenda may be amended prior to the meeting. The Committee, in its discretion, may take up other matters, time permitting.

The meeting is open to the public. However, participation in the discussion is limited to Committee members and Treasury and Customs staff. It is necessary for any person other than an Advisory Committee member who wishes to attend the meeting to give notice by contacting Ms. Theresa Manning no later than July 19, 1996 at 202-622-0220.

Dated: July 8, 1996.  
John P. Simpson,  
*Deputy Assistant Secretary (Regulatory, Tariff and Trade Enforcement).*

[FR Doc. 96-17659 Filed 7-10-96; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 4810-25-M