

REPORT ON U.S. URUGUAY ROUND IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION

45-211-472

This report summarizes the U.S. legislation introduced to implement the results of the Uruguay Round Agreements (UR Agreements). The legislation is arranged into seven titles and this report follows the order in the legislation. The U.S. bill is designed to institute changes to U.S. law where necessary to implement the new agreements. Along with the legislation, there is a "Statement of Administrative Action" (SAA) that is described as "an authoritative expression by the United States concerning the interpretation and application of the Uruguay Round Agreements". The SAA sets out the U.S. view on many aspects of the UR Agreements.

TITLE I

APPROVAL OF, AND GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATED TO, THE URUGUAY ROUND AGREEMENTS

Entry into Force

The bill provides the President with the power to determine when a sufficient number of countries have agreed to implement the UR Agreements to ensure the WTO will operate effectively, and that there will be adequate benefits to the U.S. from the WTO. The SAA specifically mentions that EC, Japan, Canada and Mexico, as well as other key developed and developing countries, must commit to the WTO in order for the President to allow the WTO to enter into force for the United States. The proposed date of entry into force is January 1, 1995.

In the U.S., unlike some other countries, the UR Agreements are not self-executing. The bill reinforces this by outlining that provisions of U.S. law that are not addressed by the bill are left unchanged. The bill makes reference to the fact that nothing in the Act can be construed to amend or modify laws to protect: human, animal or plant life or health; environment; worker safety; or to limit 301 authority unless specifically noted.

The bill provides for a federal/state consultative framework that describes steps the USTR is required to take when a sub-federal measure is challenged. These steps include consultation with the Congress and the state(s) whose measures are at issue.

Tariff Modifications

The bill provides the President with authority to proclaim changes to the U.S. tariff schedule necessary to implement tariff changes negotiated in the Uruguay Round. The SAA indicates that the U.S. intends to withdraw from the GATT