



Dear USCIB Members,



Welcome to USCIB's **Global Impact** – an update on USCIB's advocacy activities around the world in support of your interests. USCIB was at the table, along with many of our members, at key international deliberations– all for the express purpose of ensuring that the voice of U.S. business is heard where policies and regulations affecting your bottom line are determined. I urge you to circulate **Global Impact** within your company and to your peers and ask that you encourage them to contact the policy staff to register comments or questions.

From all of us here at USCIB, thank you for your support.

Peter M. Robinson
President & CEO, USCIB

At a Glance

[Keeping Markets Open for U.S. Business](#)

With uncertainty regarding trade agreements due to political developments at home and abroad, one thing remains certain: international markets need to be open for U.S. companies. USCIB was on the ground during recent NAFTA negotiating rounds; at the OECD in Paris; and at the year-end WTO Ministerial pressing for the removal of trade barriers and for strong investment agreements, all in support of U.S. jobs.

[Working to Reduce Trade Barriers](#)

Unnecessary and burdensome barriers to trade can cost companies and national economies billions of dollars. Decisions undertaken by the WCO Harmonized System Committee (HSC) can have a tremendous impact on a company's bottom line as it makes rulings on the global classification of products. USCIB was at the most recent HSC meeting in Brussels working to ensure that decisions taken by the HSC were aligned with member priorities.

[Advocating for a Continued Open and Dynamic Internet](#)

The fast-approaching implementation of the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is the focus of companies that operate in the digital space. USCIB was at ICANN advocating for a smooth rollout between the GDPR and existing ICANN requirements.

[Safeguarding the Role of Business in Environment, Climate and Chemicals Policy](#)

An increasing number of multilateral organizations are considering proposals to keep business out of policy deliberations where decisions are being made that impact U.S. business bottom lines. This is particularly prevalent in the UN environmental space. USCIB was on the front lines at the UNFCCC and SAICM pushing back against these efforts as private sector involvement is critical to the success in solving the very problems that these UN agencies seek to address.

[Leadership at the UN](#)

Review USCIB's engagement at the UN Working Group on business and human rights.

[Upcoming USCIB Representation around the World to be Covered in the Next Global Impact](#)

UNCTAD E-Commerce Week – Geneva, Switzerland; April, 2018

ICC Digital Economy Commission Meeting – Paris, France; April, 2018

USCIB Geneva Week – Geneva, Switzerland; April, 2018

BIAC Tax Committee Meetings – Paris, France; May, 2018

OECD Digital Economy Committee (CDEP) Meetings – Paris, France; May, 2018

International Labor Conference – Geneva, Switzerland; June, 2018



Leadership at the OECD and During NAFTA Negotiations

Keeping Markets Open for U.S. Business

Paris: OECD Global Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum and Other Investment Meetings – March

USCIB's Eva Hampl kicked off her week in Paris by moderating a panel on "Integrity & Trade: No Need to Grease the Wheels" during the OECD Global Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum. The panel, which focused on the relationship between trade facilitation and opportunities for corruption at the border included speakers from the OECD, World Customs Organization (WCO), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, and GlaxoSmithKline. Eva's main intervention during the panel concentrated around the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). While corruption is a cost to business and companies do invest in compliance systems, there are still limitations as to what business can affect internally. The TFA can address these issues and USCIB has been active in promoting the ratification of the agreement with U.S. FTA partners, as well as within APEC.

While in Paris, Eva participated in various meetings surrounding the work of the OECD Working Party on State Ownership and Privatization Practices. USCIB has long followed the work around State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) at the OECD. Working through BIAC, USCIB provided U.S. business comments on global reporting standards for internationally active SOEs, integrity and anti-corruption in SOEs, as well as the OECD working party's program of work for 2019-2020. One of USCIB's main priorities on this issue is the adherence to the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention to ensure government backing and the benefits of privatization. USCIB will continue to monitor the work of this OECD Working Party, and will highlight the need for business to be regarded as a relevant stakeholder. **Representing USCIB:** USCIB's Director of Investment, Trade, and Financial Services, Eva Hampl. For more information on these meetings, click [here](#) and [here](#) or contact: Eva Hampl (202) 682-0051; ehampl@uscib.org

Paris: OECD Investment Committee Meetings – March

USCIB's Shaun Donnelly was joined by Citi's Kimberley Claman (in her role as Vice-Chair of the BIAC Investment Committee) at these semi-annual meetings. Kimberley represented BIAC on the closing panel of the OECD's all-day Investment Treaties Conference, where she effectively emphasized the business perspective on the day's debates on investment treaties and investment chapters as tools to protect and promote much-needed Foreign Direct Investment flows around the world.

Following the Conference, Shaun helped lead the BIAC team in the formal consultation with the OECD, where we pressed them to work from the BIAC proactive investment policy agenda. USCIB has long worked with BIAC to apply steady pressure for more access to OECD Investment Committee substantive sessions, and as a result, all stakeholders were included in a debate on "National Security" provisions in international investment agreements. This was particularly timely due to the U.S. Administration's recent steel and aluminum tariff decisions being justified on Section 232 "national security" grounds. USCIB will continue to press for strong investment protections, including effective enforcement/dispute settlement provisions at the OECD and elsewhere. **Representing USCIB:** USCIB's Vice President of Investment and Financial Services, Shaun Donnelly. For more information on these meetings, click [here](#) or contact: Shaun Donnelly (202) 682-1221; sdonnelly@uscib.org.

Montreal and Mexico City: 6th and 7th Negotiating Rounds of NAFTA – January and March

USCIB's Eva Hampl together with member companies and associations, met with negotiators from the U.S., Canada, and Mexico; congressional staff; Republican and Democratic members of Congress; and



members of the Canadian and Mexican business community during both negotiating rounds of NAFTA. The 6th round in Montreal saw progress made on a technical level in several chapters, including digital trade and telecom, and closing out the anti-corruption chapter. The four “poison pill” proposals, which refer to automobile rules of origin, investor-state dispute settlement, government procurement, and sunset provision remained contentious, though Canada and Mexico presented new and creative ideas in an attempt to work within the U.S. proposals.

The 7th round concluded with three new chapters and two sectoral annexes closed out. In addition, while valuable progress continued to be made on modernization chapters such as customs and digital trade, there continues to be very little progress in the poison pill or rebalancing proposals the U.S. has put on the table. Little progress was made on the sunset provision and automotive rules of origin. On investment protection, Canada and Mexico have begun negotiating among themselves, and have similarly begun to do so on government procurement, which was a new development during this Mexico round. USCIB will continue to engage on these important issues and advocate for priority issues for our members. **Representing USCIB:** USCIB’s Director of Investment, Trade, and Financial Services, Eva Hampl. For more information on this meeting, contact: Eva Hampl (202) 682-0051; ehampl@uscib.org.

Paris: OECD Trade Committee Meetings – December, 2017

USCIB’s Eva Hampl traveled with member companies and associations to attend various OECD meetings concerning Colombia’s OECD accession. Eva and USCIB members joined the BIAC global business delegation in meetings with Ken Ash, OECD director for trade and agriculture; Nicola Bonucci, OECD director for legal affairs and coordinator for accession; Catalina Crane, high-level contact for Colombia’s OECD Accession Process; and delegation representatives from the U.S., EU, UK, Sweden, Switzerland, Belgium, and Mexico. During these meetings, BIAC and USCIB advocated our pre-accession recommendations – which cover areas such as transparency, market access, and IP – which we urged the OECD Trade Committee to include in the Formal Opinion. The OECD Trade Committee is one of the remaining OECD Committees yet to produce a Formal Opinion needed to approve accession. USCIB sees the precedent Colombian accession can set for other countries from the region that have indicated interest in joining the OECD, such as Argentina and Brazil. Therefore, it is extremely important to USCIB to ensure that high standards of the OECD are met by any country looking to join. USCIB will aggressively continue our advocacy efforts as this accession process moves forward. **Representing USCIB:** USCIB’s Director of Investment, Trade, and Financial Services, Eva Hampl. For more information on this meeting, click [here](#) or contact: Eva Hampl (202) 682-0051; ehampl@uscib.org.

Buenos Aires: WTO Ministerial – December, 2017

USCIB’s President and CEO Peter Robinson represented USCIB members at this Ministerial. Although there was a lack of meaningful multilateral progress, there are potential new group efforts on electronic commerce and other issues that do offer some hope for the future. Of note, 70 countries, led by Australia, Japan, and Singapore, and including the U.S. and the EU, agreed to begin discussions toward negotiations on electronic commerce – a move welcomed by USCIB. In addition, ministers from over 60 countries issued a joint statement pledging to pursue negotiations on domestic regulations that limit cross-border trade in services. USCIB continues to monitor developments at the WTO and provides feedback on behalf of our members via our Trade & Investment and Customs & Trade Facilitation Committees. **Representing USCIB:** USCIB’s President and CEO, Peter Robinson. For more information on this Ministerial, click [here](#) or contact: Peter Robinson (212) 703-5046; probinson@uscib.org.



Pressing for Global Modernization of Customs

Working to Reduce Trade Barriers

Brussels: WCO Harmonized System Committee (HSC) Meetings – March

USCIB's Megan Giblin served as an ICC delegate along with CompTIA's Stefanie Holland at the 61st Session of the WCO HSC, where several issues of member concern were on the agenda for opinion finalization or global classification including: peanuts, drones, monitors, tobacco capsule, crab flavor, iPhone6, Plad-doh kits, and more. The first day of the full Committee served as a platform for the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Harmonized System Nomenclature, which brought together past WCO Directorate leadership and UN representatives. During the celebration, Carlos Halasz of HP presented on the importance of the common language of international trade. **Representing USCIB:** USCIB's Director of Customs and Trade Facilitation, Megan Giblin. For more details on these meetings, contact: Megan Giblin (202) 371-9235; mgiblin@uscib.org.

Representing Members on Digital Economy Issues

Advocating for a Continued Open and Dynamic Internet

San Juan: Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Meetings – March

USCIB's Barbara Wanner, who serves as the business constituent representative to the Commercial Stakeholders Group (CSG) of ICANN, was joined by several USCIB members at this ICANN Community Forum where the fast-approaching May 25 implementation of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) dominated much of the discussions. While on the ground in San Juan, USCIB provided critical feedback about an interim model proposed by ICANN aimed at ensuring that ICANN and its contracted parties comply with existing ICANN contractual requirements concerning the collection of registration data (the so-called WHOIS database) as well as meet the GDPR privacy protection requirements. Importantly, USCIB participants surfaced a proposal to establish an accreditation mechanism to enable third party access to restricted data for law enforcement, consumer protection, and brand management and intellectual property protection purposes. Working through the business constituency and CSG, USCIB will engage with other ICANN stakeholders in the coming weeks to refine the accreditation model so it can be utilized when the GDPR formally goes into effect in late May. **Representing USCIB:** USCIB's Vice President of ICT Policy, Barbara Wanner, as well as representatives from USCIB members such as Amazon, AT&T, BT Americas, Facebook, Google, Microsoft, VeriSign, and Verizon. For more details on this meeting, click [here](#) or contact: Barbara Wanner (202) 617-3155; bwanner@uscib.org.

Voice of U.S. Business at the UN and OECD on Environmental Issues

Safeguarding the Role of Business in Environment, Climate and Chemicals Policy

Stockholm: Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Intersessional Meeting – March

USCIB's Mike Michener was joined by Sophia Danenberg of Boeing (also Chair of USCIB's International Product Policy Working Group) and Frank Mastrocco of Pfizer at this meeting aimed to draw up a global strategy for managing waste and chemicals based on agreed international standards. Hosted by the

Swedish government, the meeting drew representatives of UN member states, NGOs and business and industry. USCIB's role in the private sector delegation was to represent U.S. downstream users of chemicals. SAICM is a UN-backed global initiative that governs global cooperation in chemicals, but was set to expire in 2020. Sweden wants SAICM to be replaced with a global deal, similar to the Paris Agreement. USCIB's position was that existing principles of SAICM should be retained beyond 2020, including risk reduction and illegal international traffic – which was the decided at this March meeting. USCIB will continue to monitor developments at SAICM, and will provide input on behalf of U.S. business as governments move to extend an international agreement on the management of chemicals and waste. **Representing USCIB:** USCIB's Vice President of Product Policy and Innovation, Mike Michener. For more information on this meeting, click [here](#) or contact: Mike Michener (202) 617-3159; mmichener@uscib.org.

Paris: OECD Global Forum on the Environment and Climate Change – March

USCIB's Norine Kennedy attended this forum, which was organized by the OECD Climate Change Expert Group (CCXG). The CCXG promotes dialogue on and enhances understanding of politically important technical and economic issues in the international climate change negotiations. The group holds two seminars per year which bring together government representatives, the private sector and civil society to share practical information on climate policies and issues to further cost-effective implementation. USCIB Environment Steering Group member Nick Campbell, Arkema joined Norine at this forum where issues discussed included:

- The transparency of reporting on technology transfer;
- Capacity-building and financial support;
- Accounting for baseline NDC targets;
- Indicative climate finance;
- Article 6 and common timeframes;
- Investment pathways consistent with the Paris Agreement; and
- The role of land-use in the transition to a low-carbon and climate resilient economy.

Norine stressed the need for continued and improved business engagement with national government delegations and the UNFCCC to strengthen private sector support in each of these issue areas. USCIB will continue to monitor developments in this space, and will intervene on behalf of our members where necessary. **Representing USCIB:** USCIB Environment Steering Group member, Nick Campbell, Arkema and USCIB's Vice President of Environment & Strategic International Engagement, Norine Kennedy. For more information on this meeting, click [here](#) or contact: Norine Kennedy (212) 703-5052; nkennedy@uscib.org.

Paris: ICC Business Talanoa Dialogue – February

USCIB's Norine Kennedy attended this business workshop ICC convened under the UNFCCC Talanoa Dialogue process during the first week of February. The day-long meeting at ICC Headquarters in Paris brought business leaders together with influential government representatives leading the UNFCCC negotiations to discuss where business can contribute and strengthen implementation of national and international climate policy. The discussion tackled concerns with assertions made by anti-business interests about "conflict of interest" as a justification to ban certain business sectors from observing the UNFCCC deliberations. USCIB recently submitted [recommendations to the UNFCCC](#) on the importance of substantive business involvement in the UNFCCC going forward. USCIB will work closely with ICC in future Talanoa Dialogue meetings, and will consult its members as it prepares USCIB contributions to the Talanoa Dialogue scoping exercise en route to the next UNFCCC Conference of Parties in Katowice,

Poland in December. **Representing USCIB:** USCIB Environment Committee Co-Chair, Justin Perrettson, Novozymes; USCIB Environment Steering Group member, Nick Campbell, Arkema, and USCIB's Vice President of Environment & Strategic International Engagement, Norine Kennedy. For more information on this meeting, contact: Norine Kennedy (212) 703-5052; nkennedy@uscib.org.

Bonn: UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 23rd Conference of the Parties (COP23) – November, 2017

USCIB's Norine Kennedy and President and CEO, Peter Robinson, represented USCIB members at COP23, which set out to agree on the negotiating framework for the final text to be agreed in 2018 to establish implementation rules for the Paris Agreement. Major developments in the climate change space hung over COP23, including:

- Uncertainty regarding the announced U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement;
- Increasing complexity with overlapping and seemingly redundant topics (i.e. human rights, gender balance, etc.); and
- Assessments of both national reductions and financial streams falling short of objectives set out in the UN climate treaty.

One key challenge facing U.S. business heading into COP23 was that countries such as Bolivia and Nicaragua, together with numerous NGOs, continue to argue for sectoral bans in the UNFCCC. As a response, USCIB mobilized business groups in Bonn and joined forces to register concern with key delegations and to highlight the shared interest and need for inclusive and transparent involvement for businesses across all areas of the process.

While in Bonn, USCIB organized an important Business Dialogue with the Major Economies Business Forum (BizMEF), where discussions centered on where business can contribute to national pledge development and review, and how business can be involved in the global review of pre-2020 climate action by countries and business (the Talanoa Dialogue). USCIB, together with BizMEF, continued to call for the establishment of a recognized channel for business engagement on these and other elements of the Paris Agreement and UNFCCC. **Representing USCIB:** USCIB's Vice President of Environment, Energy and Strategic International Engagement, Norine Kennedy, and President and CEO, Peter Robinson. For more information on COP23, click [here](#) or contact: Norine Kennedy (212) 703-5052; nkennedy@uscib.org.

Elsewhere in the World...

Leadership at the UN

Geneva: UN Working Group Consultation on Corporate Due Diligence - February

USCIB's Gabriella Rigg Herzog participated in the February consultation meeting in Geneva on "Corporate human rights due diligence in practice," convened by the UN Working Group on business and human rights (UNWG). The consultation was to inform the UNWG's 2018 report to the UN General Assembly, which will examine emerging good practices of corporate human rights due diligence. Gabriella - together with colleagues from the International Organization of Employers (IOE) - noted the many examples of business carrying out human rights due diligence as part of their responsibility to respect human rights under Pillar 2 of the UN Guiding Principles on Human Rights. Gabriella, IOE and other business representatives emphasized that for our collective success, governments must carry out their duty to protect human rights and by establishing rule of law and carrying out good governance practices domestically. USCIB will continue to monitor developments at the UN regarding business and



human rights, and will continue to speak out for business. **Representing USCIB:** USCIB's Vice President of Corporate Responsibility and Labor Affairs, Gabriella Rigg Herzog. For more information on this meeting, contact: Gabriella Rigg Herzog (212) 703-5056; gherzog@uscib.org.

Upcoming USCIB Representation around the World

- **UNCTAD E-Commerce Week – Geneva, Switzerland; April, 2018**
Barbara Wanner bwanner@uscib.org
- **ICC Digital Economy Commission Meeting – Paris, France; April, 2018**
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Mike Michener mmichener@uscib.org *Norine Kennedy* nkennedy@uscib.org
- **BIAC Tax Committee Meetings – Paris, France; May 2018**
Carol Doran Klein cdklein@uscib.org
- **OECD Digital Economy Committee (CDEP) Meetings – Paris, France; May, 2018**
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- **International Labor Conference – Geneva, Switzerland; June, 2018**
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