



NEWS IN BRIEF

President Trump Names New FMC Chairman

President Trump has named Michael A. Khouri as the new Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC). Khouri has been a member the FMC since 2010 and has been serving as acting Chairman for the past year.

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U.S. Terminates GSP Privilege for India and Turkey

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) has announced that the United States will terminate Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) privileges for India and Turkey. The USTR explained that India had been subject to a compliance review for its trade barriers. India has failed to provide assurances that the criteria regarding fairness of imports into its market would be met.

Turkey is being removed from GSP eligibility because it has moved to a higher level of economic development. Turkey has also shown an increase in its Gross National Income (GNI) and a decline in its poverty rate. GSP is for developing companies and with Turkey's economic growth, the USTR has determined that Turkey has passed the threshold and no longer qualifies.

The changes recommended by the USTR cannot take place until at least 60 days after notification to Congress and the governments of India and Turkey. The notification will be made in the form of a presidential proclamation.

A copy of the notice issued by the USTR can be found on [their website](#). We are currently monitoring the situation and awaiting the Presidential Proclamation which will set the date for the changes to be made.

Latest on China Section 301 Negotiations

During his testimony at the Senate Finance Committee hearing, U.S. Trade representative Robert Lighthizer was asked if the China negotiations would produce a deal by the end of March. He responded that they do not know when a deal will be determined. He did add that something will happen, either good or bad. He reported that China is making concessions with the hope of lifting the 301 tariffs. There is no time frame for the negotiations, but he added that he hoped they are in the final weeks of reaching an agreement. Lighthizer also stated that there are still major issues to be completed before an agreement can be made.

By **Todd Boice**, *President*