

Exchange to have rules providing for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among its members and issuers and other persons using its facilities.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

The Exchange did not solicit or receive written comments on the proposed rule change.

III. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549-0609. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filings will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the NYSE. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-NYSE-99-15 and should be submitted by June 7, 1999.

IV. Discussion

The Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities exchange and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6 of the Act⁵ and the rules and regulations

thereunder.⁶ Section 6(b)(4) of the Act⁷ requires that the rules of an exchange provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its members and issuers and other persons using its facilities. By capping issuer listing fees under certain circumstances, the proposal should help to ensure that issuers that split their securities frequently or that participate in mergers or acquisitions are not charged disproportionately high listing fees.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,⁸ the Commission finds good cause for approving the proposed rule change prior to the 30th day after the date of publication of notice of filing of the proposal in the **Federal Register** because the proposed rule change will allow companies to benefit from the fee caps as soon as possible.

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)⁹ of the Act, that the proposed rule change (File No. SR-NYSE-99-15) be, and hereby is, approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁰

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-12357 Filed 5-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

OFFICE OF THE U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Free Trade Area of the Americas: Request for Public Comment on Identification of a Private Sector Expert on Consumer Issues Related to Electronic Commerce

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) Joint Government-Private Sector Experts Committee on Electronic Commerce (Joint Committee) request for public comment on the identification of a private sector expert on consumer issues related to electronic commerce who may wish to participate in the work of the Joint Committee.

SUMMARY: The Joint Committee on Electronic Commerce was established

⁶ In approving this rule change, the Commission has considered the proposal's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation, consistent with Section 3 of the Act. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f). This proposal should facilitate capital formation by reducing listing fees.

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

¹⁰ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

by the 34 countries in the Western Hemisphere participating in the Free Trade Area of the Americas. The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) seeks to identify a U.S. private sector expert on consumer issues related to electronic commerce who may be interested in participating in the work of the Joint Committee. Interested members of the public are invited to submit written notice of their interest and their qualifications.

DATES: Written expressions of interest in participating in the work of the Joint Committee should be submitted no later than May 28, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions concerning public comments contact Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the United States Trade Representative, (202) 395-3475. All questions concerning the Joint Committee may be directed to Regina Vargo, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Western Hemisphere, U.S. Department of Commerce (202) 482-5324, Regina_Vargo@ita.doc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: At the Second Summit of the Americas in April 1998, in Santiago, Chile, the 34 democratically elected Western Hemisphere countries initiated negotiations to create the FTAA by the year 2005 and to achieve concrete progress toward that objective by the end of the century. They established nine initial negotiating groups, a consultative group, and two committees, one of which is the Joint Committee. The Joint Committee is chaired by Mr. Dale Marshall of the Government of Barbados. Ms. Regina Vargo, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Western Hemisphere, U.S. Department of Commerce, leads the joint U.S. government—private sector delegation to the Joint Committee.

Joint Committee Terms of Reference: The objective of the Committee is to make recommendations to Ministers on how to increase and broaden the benefits of electronic commerce and how electronic commerce should be dealt with in the context of the FTAA negotiations. The Joint Committee is to provide recommendations to the Vice-Ministerial Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) four weeks before the November 3-4, 1999 Trade Ministerial meeting. In order to develop its recommendations, the Joint Committee is focusing on:

- Increasing understanding of the potential benefits of electronic commerce to countries in the hemisphere;

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f.

- Identifying the environment that will allow electronic commerce to flourish;
- Discussing infrastructure questions; and
- Identifying how electronic commerce can facilitate the operation of trade obligations.

Joint Committee Update: The Joint Committee is not a negotiating group; rather it is examining a broad range of electronic commerce issues relevant to identifying the environment that will extend the advantages of e-commerce throughout the Western Hemisphere, in part by keeping itself apprised of related developments in other international fora.

A meeting of Joint Committee government representatives addressed organizational issues in Miami in October 1998. They scheduled four additional meetings in Miami for 1999. At the meeting on January 6-8, the topics covered included small business, smaller economies, governments as model users, business-to-business applications, raising skills and awareness, network access and reliability and standards for forms of transmissions. The meeting on April 24-26 covered trade, tax and selected legal issues related to electronic commerce and included expert presentations by World Trade Organization (WTO) personnel and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) personnel. The meeting on June 14-16 is scheduled to discuss issues related to jurisdiction and contract law, privacy, security and reliability, authentication, and consumer protection, and to include expert presentations by Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) personnel and United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) personnel. The fourth meeting on August 30-September 1, will focus on other issues and on the report to Ministers.

Joint Committee Private Sector Representation: FTAA governments decided that the Joint Committee would include private sector representatives, which is consistent with President Clinton's principle that the private sector should take the lead in developing the rules for global electronic commerce. FTAA Vice Ministers for trade determined that individual governments would identify private sector participants, with a view toward balanced hemispheric representation in terms of geography and electronic commerce issue expertise. On August 6, 1998, a **Federal Register** notice (63 FR 42090) was

published inviting expressions of interest and qualifications to participate in the work of the Joint Committee.

Based on responses, U.S. private sector representatives were selected to reflect a balance of interests and electronic commerce issue expertise. At that time, however, no submissions were received from interested consumer groups. The TPSC is now seeking to expand private sector participation on the Joint Committee to include an expert on consumer issues related to electronic commerce.

Public Comments

In order to assist the TPSC in identifying a U.S. private sector expert on consumer issues related to electronic commerce, which are scheduled to be discussed at the June 14-16 meeting, members of the public are invited to submit written notice of their interest and describe their qualifications. Qualifications of interest include: demonstrated expertise in one or more aspects of electronic commerce and consumer protection; an ability and willingness to broadly solicit views from and disseminate information to consumer groups; and familiarity with U.S. and foreign trade and investment policies and obligations. Knowledge of the Western Hemisphere, including established contacts with foreign private sector interests in the region, would be helpful.

Those persons wishing to make written submissions should provide twenty (20) typed copies (in English) no later than noon, Friday, May 28, 1999 to Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Room 122, 600 17th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20508.

Written submissions in connection with this request will be available for public inspection in the USTR Reading Room, Room 101, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th St., NW, Washington, D.C. An appointment to review the file may be made by calling Brenda Webb (202) 395-6186. The Reading Room is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Frederick L. Montgomery,

Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

[FR Doc. 99-12377 Filed 5-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3901-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Aviation Proceedings, Agreements Filed During the Week Ending May 7, 1999

The following Agreements were filed with the Department of Transportation under the provisions of 49 U.S.C. sections 412 and 414. Answers may be filed within 21 days of date of filing.

Docket Number: OST-99-5618.

Date Filed: May 3, 1999.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject:

PTC2 EUR 0246 dated 4 May 1999

PTC2 EUR-ME 0075 dated 4 May 1999

Mail Vote 001-Resolution 010g

TC2 Special Passenger Amending Resolution from Malta

to Europe and from Malta to Middle East

Intended effective date: 01 June 1999.

Docket Number: OST-99-5665.

Date Filed: May 7, 1999.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject:

PTC2 EUR 0248 dated 4 May 1999 r1-r6

PTC2 EUR 0249 dated 7 May 1999 r7-r18

PTC2 EUR 0250 dated 7 May 1999 r19

PTC2 EUR 0251 dated 7 May 1999 r20

PTC2 EUR 0252 dated 7 May 1999 r21

TC2 Within Europe Expedited Resolutions r1-r21

Minutes-PTC2 EUR 0247 dated 4 May 1999

Tables-None

Intended effective dates: 14 June through 1 November 1999.

Docket Number: OST-99-5668.

Date Filed: May 7, 1999.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject:

PTC3 0333 dated 11 May 1999

Mail Vote 004-Resolution 010j

TC3 Special Passenger Amending Resolution between Korea

and Japan (Seoul/Fukushima)

Intended effective date: 1 June 1999.

Dorothy W. Walker,

Federal Register Liaison.

[FR Doc. 99-12323 Filed 5-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-62-P