

Organization negotiations that will begin later this month in Seattle. Through these principles, we will seek to ensure that trade rules continue to be support of environmental protections at home and abroad.

I urge other WTO members to work with us to advance these principles when we meet in Seattle.

**Executive Order 13141—
Environmental Review of
Trade Agreements**

November 16, 1999

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to further the environmental and trade policy goals of the United States, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. The United States is committed to a policy of careful assessment and consideration of the environmental impacts of trade agreements. The United States will factor environmental considerations into the development of its trade negotiating objectives. Responsible agencies will accomplish these goals through a process of ongoing assessment and evaluation, and, in certain instances, written environmental reviews.

Sec. 2. Purpose and Need. Trade agreements should contribute to the broader goal of sustainable development. Environmental reviews are an important tool to help identify potential environmental effects of trade agreements, both positive and negative, and to help facilitate consideration of appropriate responses to those effects whether in the course of negotiations, through other means, or both.

Sec. 3. (a) Implementation. The United States Trade Representative (Trade Representative) and the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality shall oversee the implementation of this order, including the development of procedures pursuant to this order. In consultation with appropriate foreign policy, environmental, and economic agencies.

(b) *Conduct of Environmental Reviews.* The Trade Representative, through the inter-agency Trade Policy Staff Committee

(TPSC), shall conduct the environmental reviews of the agreements under section 4 of this order.

Sec. 4. Trade Agreements.

(a) Certain agreements that the United States may negotiate shall require an environmental review. These include:

- (i) comprehensive multilateral trade rounds;
- (ii) bilateral or plurilateral free trade agreements; and
- (iii) major new trade liberalization agreements in natural resource sectors.

(b) Agreements reached in connection with enforcement and dispute resolution actions are not covered by this order.

(c) For trade agreements not covered under subsections 4(a) and (b), environmental reviews will generally not be required. Most sectoral liberalization agreements will not require an environmental review. The Trade Representative, through the TPSC, shall determine whether an environmental review of an agreement or category of agreements is warranted based on such factors as the significance of reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts.

Sec. 5. Environmental Reviews.

(a) Environmental reviews shall be:

- (i) written;
- (ii) initiated through a *Federal Register* notice, outlining the proposed agreement and soliciting public comment and information on the scope of the environmental review of the agreement;
- (iii) undertaken sufficiently early in the process to inform the development of negotiating positions, but shall not be a condition for the timely tabling of particular negotiating proposals;
- (iv) made available in draft form for public comment, where practicable; and
- (v) made available to the public in final form.

(b) As a general matter, the focus of environmental reviews, will be impacts in the United States. As appropriate and prudent, reviews may also examine global and transboundary impacts.

Sec. 6. Resources. Upon request by the Trade Representative, with the concurrence of the Deputy Director for Management of

the Office of Management and Budget, Federal agencies shall, to the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations, provide analytical and financial resources and support, including the detail of appropriate personnel, to the Office of the United States Trade Representative to carry out the provisions of this order.

Sec. 7. General Provisions. This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and does not create any right, benefit, trust, or responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 16, 1999.

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NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on November 18.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report of the Federal
Labor Relations Authority**

November 16, 1999

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 701 of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-454; 5 U.S.C. 7104(e)), I have the pleasure of transmitting to you the twentieth Annual Report of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for Fiscal Year 1998.

The report includes information on the cases heard and decisions rendered by the Federal Labor Relations Authority, the General Counsel of the Authority, and the Federal Service Impasses Panel.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 16, 1999.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report of the
Railroad Retirement Board**

November 16, 1999

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Railroad Retirement Board for Fiscal Year 1998, pursuant to the provisions of section 7(b)(6) of the Railroad Retirement Act and section 12(1) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 16, 1999.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on Iran**

November 16, 1999

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 16, 1999.

**Statement on the E-Rate and Efforts
To End the Digital Divide**

November 17, 1999

Today the Federal Communications Commission announced that the "E-rate" will help connect over one million classrooms to the Internet. This is a giant step toward the goal that Vice President Gore and I set to connect every classroom and library to the Internet by the year 2000.

Children all over the United States are now able to log on to the Library of Congress, get on-line mentoring from a scientist halfway around the world, and acquire the skills they need to succeed in the high-tech economy of the 21st century, because of the