

Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee
September 14, 2021, 10:00am – 3:00pm EDT
Webex

The Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee (ETTAC) convened the second meeting under its 2020-2022 charter from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. EDT on September 14, 2021 via Webex.

ETTAC Members Present

Mr. Jack Adams	Ms. Vanessa Leiby
Ms. Adina Renee Adler	Mr. Carlos Lemos
Mr. Dean Amhaus	Mr. Walt Marlowe
Mr. Jim Anderson	Mr. Jim Matharu
Mr. Randy Baerg	Mr. Ashish Raval
Mr. David Biderman	Mr. David Rigby
Ms. Dana Blumberg	Ms. Clare Schulzki
Mr. Chuck Chaitovitz	Ms. Paula Soos
Mr. Bill Decker	Dr. Paula Stern
Mr. Amir Eftekhari	Mr. Stephen Strachan
Mr. Tom Frankel	Mr. Bryan Stubbs
Ms. Anne Germain	Mr. Kevin Summ
Mr. Dick Gust	Mr. Craig Updyke
Mr. Rick Hill	Mr. Joseph Vaglio
Ms. Tasha Jamaluddin	Mr. Roberto Vengoechea
Ms. Debra Johnson	Mr. George Vorsheim
Mr. Chris Lawson	

Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration (ITA) Officials Present:

Victoria Yue, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), ETTAC
Adam O'Malley, Director, Office of Energy and Environmental Industries (OEEI)
Ryan Russell, U.S. Commercial Service Global Environmental Tech Team Lead
Evelina Scott, OEEI
Megan Hyndman, OEEI
Cora Dickson, OEEI
Devin Horne, OEEI
Laura Krishnan, Office of Latin America and Caribbean

Other U.S. Government Officials Present:

Raffi Balian, U.S. Department of State
Megan Barnhart, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Christine Brown, U.S. Small Business Administration
Sagatom Saha, Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate
Brandon Bray, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
Christa Hasenkopf, USAID
Andrew David, U.S. International Trade Commission

Members of the Public Present:

Margaret Spiegelman, IWP News

Welcome and Committee Business

ETTAC Chair Bill Decker called the meeting to order. DFO Victoria Yue took attendance and asked participants from ITA and the interagency participants to introduce themselves.

The minutes from the last meeting on August 2-4 were approved. DFO Yue provided brief updates on the ETTAC Sharepoint site and the first meeting of the Environmental Trade Working Group (ETWG), which was held on September 9.

DFO Yue previewed the agenda for the day and then split the members into breakout rooms for a virtual coffee session for the members to get to know each other.

Overview of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee (REEEAC) Workstreams

Cora Dickson, the DFO of REEEAC, provided a presentation on REEEAC's work, noting the similarities and differences to ETTAC. REEEAC members are geographically spread out in the U.S. and represent companies involved in renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as a range of perspectives from small businesses to larger exporters and both manufacturers and service providers. Ms. Dickson also summarized the work of the subcommittees: Trade Promotion & Market Access, Global Decarbonization, Clean Energy Supply Chains, and Technology & Innovation. In response to a question about technology risk mitigation insurance, Dickson explained that REEEAC is doing research on the subject, with the goal of helping fill the gap for financial institutions that are wary of emerging technology, which would help small companies secure financing. More information is available at <https://www.trade.gov/reeeac>.

Introduction to the Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate (SPEC)

Sagatom Saha provided an introductory presentation on the work of SPEC. He explained the various teams within SPEC, noting that the office works on bilateral ambition negotiations, bilateral financing packages, corporate emissions, supply chains, and clean energy. Mr. Saha previewed two new initiatives to increase corporate climate commitments and noted that SPEC is also working with OEEI to increase clean tech export competitiveness. After his presentation, Mr. Saha engaged in discussion with ETTAC members on green steel, COP 26, methane, and the water/energy nexus.

Update on Environmental Solutions Toolkit

Adam O'Malley, the Director of OEEI, provided an overview of the Toolkit and update on the development process. The Toolkit is intended to be a database to connect U.S. companies to foreign buyers. U.S. companies register their products or services. OEEI would conduct due diligence and then add the companies to the database, through which foreign buyers could search for a particular solution, product, or service, and access a list of U.S. providers. Unfortunately, the launch is not yet imminent due to technical problems. The platform originally selected for the Toolkit has not proven to be a good fit. ITA's IT team is looking for an appropriate new platform. Mr. O'Malley was hopeful to have an update by the next ETTAC meeting.

ITA Brazil Desk Update

Laura Krishnan from the Office of Latin America and Caribbean provided an update on work with Brazil. ITA is planning the next U.S.-Brazil Commercial Dialogue and will have a plenary meeting in October. The Dialogue is a government-to-government mechanism for engaging on cross-cutting issues, and includes several working groups that focus on trade partnership, intellectual property rights, standards and metrology, and digital trade. Ms. Krishnan noted that ITA is looking to respond to administrative climate priorities in this venue, including identifying issues that companies may have with Brazil, and identifying trade barriers or other areas of opportunity for which the Dialogue can achieve results. Following her presentation, Ms. Krishnan and the ETTAC discussed international standards, additional testing sometimes required in Brazil, the complex regulatory and tax environment, and local content requirements. Ms. Krishnan encouraged ETTAC members to send details on challenges they face in Brazil.

Clean Tech Export Competitiveness Strategy Briefing and Discussion

Devin Horne from OEEI gave a presentation on the Clean Tech Export Competitiveness Strategy. Its goals are to improve overseas market access to U.S. clean tech companies, enhance access to market information to support U.S. industry, increase foreign direct investment (FDI) and to help grow the U.S. clean tech industrial base. Mr. Horne invited ETTAC members to respond to a request for public comments on the Strategy in the Federal Register, which closes on October 1, 2021. ITA will also consider any formal recommendations produced by the ETTAC during its current charter. Mr. Horne also suggested ETTAC's feedback could help prioritize sectors of opportunity based on where members see their industries going. Members could also help with increasing the understanding of trade barriers.

ETTAC Subcommittee Breakout Meetings

The committee then broke into smaller, one-hour meetings for the three subcommittees: Trade Policy and Export Competitiveness, Climate Change Mitigation and Resilience Technologies, and Waste Management and Circular Economy.

Subcommittee Meeting Readouts & Discussion of Next Steps

- **Climate Change Mitigation and Resilience Technologies:** Six topics have been identified for the subcommittee to focus on: 1) recommendations for the Clean Tech Export Competitiveness Strategy; 2) a recommendation to repackage and revisit the previous charter's work on standards and harmonization; 3) reviewing and considering how ETTAC can complement/support REEEAC's recommendations; 4) considering export incentives around measured carbon reduction; 5) clean energy transition metals; and 6) recommendations for the promotion of small- and medium-sized enterprises from the environmental technologies sector.
- **Waste Management and Circular Economy:** Two topics have been identified for immediate focus: 1) whether the U.S. should join an international framework governing marine litter/ocean plastics and 2) closing and remediating uncontrolled dump sites. Two additional topics being considered include 3) energy recovery from waste and 4) the role of water in the circular economy and a potential recommendation for promoting water reuse/recycling. Smaller work groups have been formed to work on some of these topics.
- **Trade Policy and Export Competitiveness:** The subcommittee is discussing 1) market intelligence, including the idea of having roundtables, 2) learning about the Senate

Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, 3) how to feed recommendations to the interagency to highlight environmental technologies export-related issues in bilateral and multilateral fora, 3) learning about the administration's stance on free trade agreements (FTAs), and 4) how to align with other entities in responding to the Clean Tech Export Competitiveness Strategy and how to highlight supply chain issues for that initiative.

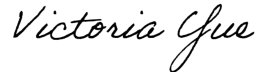
Public Comment and Adjournment

No issues were raised for public comment.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2.21p.m.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.



Victoria Yue
Designated Federal Officer
Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee



Bill Decker
Chair
Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee