

# USTR NEWS

## UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

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**For Immediate Release:**

October 24, 2008

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### **Schwab Announces Staff Promotions, Reorganization**

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Trade Representative Susan C. Schwab is pleased to announce the promotion of two USTR staffers and some organizational changes.

Christopher Wilson has been promoted to Assistant USTR (AUSTR) for Europe and the Middle East. James Sanford has been promoted to Assistant USTR for the newly-named Office of Market Access and Industrial Competitiveness, which was formerly the Office of Industry, Market Access, and Telecommunications.

In addition, Ambassador Schwab announced that the Office of South Asian Affairs will now also be responsible for the countries of Central Asia; telecommunications services issues will move to the Services and Investment Office; and the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) portfolio will move to the new Office of Trade and Development.

“Chris and Jim have made important contributions to USTR's mission in their previous roles as Deputy Assistant USTRs, and I am confident they will continue to lead and succeed on behalf of the nation's critical trade interests,” Ambassador Schwab said.

“Chris Wilson will be managing a mature and complex trade relationship with the European Union, exploring opportunities to deepen trade ties with partners in North Africa and the Middle East, and overseeing evolving trade relations with Russia and its neighbors,” Ambassador Schwab said.

Changing the office name to Market Access and Industrial Competitiveness (MAIC) will address the growing importance of non-tariff barriers (NTBs) to USTR's mission of opening foreign markets. Therefore, it is appropriate to take a more systemic approach to NTBs.

“Jim Sanford is the ideal person to fill this new role,” Ambassador Schwab said. “He has extensive experience dealing with European NTBs, and has led USTR negotiations on various Mutual Recognition Agreements.”

To sharpen the Office's focus on tariff and non-tariff barriers, and also to more logically align the responsibilities of other offices, two other changes will be made:

- The telecommunications services portfolio will move to the Services and Investment Office. Non-service telecom issues will continue to be handled in the new MAIC office.
- The GSP portfolio will move to the Office of Trade and Development (formerly known as the Trade Capacity Building Office). GSP, like other preference programs, is an important development tool. “This move will allow improved policy focus and coordination for this critical preference program,” Ambassador Schwab said.

Finally, the Office of South Asian Affairs, headed by Michael Delaney, will now also be responsible for trade and investment relations with the emergent Central Asian nations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

“This reorganization will bolster our efforts to foster increased trade with, and economic cooperation among, the Central Asian nations as well as with Afghanistan and other South Asian neighbors, while maintaining and expanding their strong ties to the Euro-Atlantic community,” Ambassador Schwab said.

## **Background**

Christopher Wilson served as a DAUSTR in the Office of Intellectual Property and Innovation. In this position, which he has held since September 2006, he has served as the U.S. representative to the World Trade Organization’s Council on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS Council), monitored intellectual property and related trade issues in several geographic regions, and developed and implemented policies to foster innovation in economic sectors such as health technology.

Since joining USTR in 2000, Christopher Wilson has also worked on issues related to Central America and the Caribbean, and spent four years representing USTR at the United States Mission to the European Union in Brussels.

Jim Sanford served as the DAUSTR for Europe since June 2002. His responsibilities primarily involve the development and implementation of U.S. trade policy with the 27 countries of the European Union (EU), including a broad range of bilateral trade issues and regional trade initiatives.

Sanford has over sixteen years of experience working for the U.S. government on trade policy in a wide variety of different policy contexts including Europe, the Middle East, Japan and the World Trade Organization. Since joining USTR in 1998, he has devoted particular attention to addressing an extensive range of European regulatory barriers and developing numerous policy initiatives for advancing U.S.-EU regulatory cooperation and facilitating trade.

Michael Delaney was appointed Assistant US Trade Representative for South Asia in September 2008. In this position, he is responsible for development of trade with the countries comprising

South Asia – India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka – as well as Iraq. Several trade initiatives fall under his purview, including the US proposal for creation of Regional Opportunity Zones in Afghanistan and certain regions of Pakistan.

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