

ECCO NEWS

Issue #12 - January 2014

Will 2014 be the year of the "transatlantic trade and investment partnership"?

In 2013 the European Union finalized a free trade agreement with Canada. Will it do the same with the United States in 2014? Because the EU as a unit is the largest trading partner of the United States and vice versa, efforts are ongoing to reach an agreement. The treaty, referred to as the "Transatlantic trade and investment partnership" (TTIP), establishing a free trade area between the United States and the EU is still at the negotiation stage and will be the most far-reaching trade agreement anywhere in the world.

Negotiations began on July 8, 2013 and the third round was held in Washington on December 16-20, 2013. Civil society was consulted on January 14, 2014.

While the main goal is to lower customs duties, the parties will also be negotiating the further opening of their government procurement markets. This means that SMEs in Europe could benefit from the Buy American Act, a possibility which has already come under criticism from a slice of American civil society.

Register NOW for the next Countertrade & Offset Academy

ECCO has launched its Advanced Management Program dedicated to Offset in partnership with ESSEC Business School. For 2014, the three modules will be spread over two 6-day sessions: session 1-February 3rd to 8th – session 2 – March 24th to 29th.

Two last weeks for registration - please contact: Rebekah LATOUR, tel: +33 1 46 92 49 68 -Cell : +33 6 35 37 16 56. Mail: rebekah.latour@essec.edu

ECCO Information

Effective January 1, 2014, Denis Plantier, Senior Vice President Group Operations - Engineering and Industry for THALES Group is appointed ECCO General Secretary and Mehdi El Harrak, who is preparing a PhD on offset in international trade, is appointed ECCO Deputy General Secretary. Both sit on the ECCO Executive Committee along with Christian Sylvain, Chairman and Jean Marie Aoust, Treasurer.

The ECCO Board comprises Christian Sylvain, Chairman (AREVA), Guy Fremont, Vice Chairman (MBDA, France), Ove Sindre Lied, Vice Chairman (KONGSBERG, Norway) and the following members: Lee Denise Furter (RUAG, Switzerland), Sonia Mehaignoul (FN HERSTAL, Belgium), Alain Fernandez (THALES International Offset, France), Jean Marie Aoust (JMA Conseil, France), and Jacques Chahal-Purewal (EPICOS, Greece).

Elections to renew the Board will be held in June 2014 in compliance with ECCO's Articles of Association.

ECCO is also pleased to announce the appointment of Sonia Guesba as "Operations Manager" for ECCO. Sonia previously worked as French Foreign Trade Advisor File Manager at the French National Board of Foreign Trade Advisors.

ECCO can now be contacted directly on +33 6 10 60 08 02

Press contact: info@ecco-offset.eu

Visit www.ecco-offset.eu to become a member of ECCO or enquire about any subject in connection with international trade and offset. ECCO is a European association for companies, individuals and institutions involved in offset and countertrade. The association organises symposiums where members and guests can unravel matters related to trade, international law and government procurement. ECCO also aims to promote offset research and training.

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Members only

Don't forget that the Members Area of the ECCO website has a "Small Ads" section where you can either place an announcement regarding your offset requirements or make yourself known as a stakeholder. It has now been extended to include job offers.

Contact the ECCO staff to post an ad.

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