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U.S. - Uruguay Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) Meeting of the Coordinators

Atlanta, Georgia – TIFA Coordinators from the United States and Uruguay met today in Atlanta to continue work under the TIFA. The U.S. delegation was headed by Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for the Americas Everett Eissenstat. Uruguay’s Ambassador to the United States Carlos Gianelli led the Uruguayan delegation.

“Today’s meeting provided an excellent opportunity to assess the progress our teams have made since our last bilateral council meeting in April,” said AUSTR Eissenstat. “We look forward to a continuing our work under the 2008 TIFA work plan in the coming months.”

“Since the last Trade and Investment Council meeting of April 2008, we have made progress in the areas of e-commerce, trade facilitation and environment, and we are excited to continue our work,” said Ambassador Gianelli.

During the meeting, AUSTR Eissenstat and Ambassador Gianelli took stock of discussions undertaken pursuant to the TIFA Work Program as agreed to by the Trade and Investment Council (TIC) at its meeting in April 2008. Both governments commended the strong progress that has been achieved since the TIFA was signed in January 2007, and agreed to continue the dialogue under the Work Program in order to further develop and deepen the United States-Uruguay trade and investment relationship.

In implementing the TIFA, both parties reaffirmed their commitment to expand economic opportunities between Uruguay and the United States while simultaneously coordinating their efforts to promote greater trade liberalization through the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The Parties agreed to convene another meeting of the Trade and Investment Council by November 2008.

Background

The U.S.-Uruguay commercial relationship has developed significantly in the past several years. In 2002, Uruguay and the United States created a Joint Commission on Trade and Investment

(JCTI) to exchange ideas on a variety of economic topics. The Commission served as an important mechanism for the two countries to work to enhance and broaden their trade relationship, and resulted in the successful negotiation of the U.S.-Uruguay Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT), which entered into force on November 1, 2006. The U.S.-Uruguay TIFA, an agreement which established the U.S.-Uruguay Trade and Investment Committee (TIC) and which is intended to further deepen the trade and investment dialogue, was signed on January 25, 2007, by the U.S. Government and the Government of Uruguay.

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