

Proclamation 7758 of March 1, 2004

## To Modify Duty-Free Treatment Under the Generalized System of Preferences

*By the President of the United States of America*

*A Proclamation*

1. Pursuant to sections 501 and 502(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the “Act”) (19 U.S.C. 2461, 2462(a)(1)), the President is authorized to designate countries as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

2. Section 502(b)(1)(C) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(b)(1)(C)) specifies that European Union member states may not be designated as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the GSP.

3. Section 502(e) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(e)) provides that the President shall terminate the designation of a country as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP if the President determines that such country has become a “high income” country as defined by the official statistics of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Termination is effective on January 1 of the second year following the year in which such determination is made.

4. Pursuant to sections 501 and 502(a)(1) of the Act, and having due regard for the factors set forth in section 501 of the Act and taking into account the factors set forth in section 502(c) (19 U.S.C. 2462(c)), I have decided to designate Algeria as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP.

5. Consistent with section 502(b)(1)(C) of the Act, I have decided to terminate the designation of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia as beneficiary developing countries, with such termination to become effective for each of these countries when it becomes a European Union member state.

6. Pursuant to section 502(e) of the Act, I have determined that Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, and Barbados have become “high income” countries, and I am terminating the designation of those countries as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the GSP, effective January 1, 2006.

7. Section 604 of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2483), authorizes the President to embody in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including title V and section 604 of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2461–67, 2483), do proclaim that:

(1) Algeria is designated as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP, effective 15 days after the date of this proclamation.

(2) In order to reflect this designation in the HTS, general note 4(a) to the HTS is modified by adding “Algeria” to the list entitled “Independent Countries,” effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the fifteenth day after the date of this proclamation.

(3) The designation of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the GSP is terminated for each country on the date when it becomes a European Union member state. The United States Trade Representative shall announce each such date in a notice published in the **Federal Register**.

(4) In order to reflect these terminations in the HTS, general note 4(a) to the HTS is modified by deleting “Czech Republic,” “Estonia,” “Hungary,” “Latvia,” “Lithuania,” “Poland,” and “Slovakia” from the list of independent countries, effective for each of these countries with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the day on which that country becomes a European Union member state.

(5) The designation of Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, and Barbados as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the GSP is terminated, effective on January 1, 2006.

(6) In order to reflect this termination in the HTS, and to make other changes to update the list of Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM) member countries, effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after January 1, 2006, general note 4(a) to the HTS is modified by:

- (a) deleting “Antigua and Barbuda,” “Bahrain,” and “Barbados” from the list of independent countries,
- (b) deleting “Antigua and Barbuda” and “Barbados” from the list of the “*Member Countries of the Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM), except The Bahamas*” under the provision “*Associations of Countries (treated as one country)*,” and
- (c) deleting “*Member Countries of the Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM), except The Bahamas*” and inserting “*Member Countries of the Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM)*” in lieu thereof, and deleting “Consisting of:” before the list of countries and inserting “Currently qualifying:” in lieu thereof.

(7) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

**Proclamation 7759 of March 3, 2004****American Red Cross Month, 2004**

*By the President of the United States of America*

*A Proclamation*

The American Red Cross was founded in 1881 by Clara Barton and chartered by the Congress in 1905 to provide humanitarian services to the United States in times of need. Today, the Red Cross remains dedicated to relieving suffering by helping our citizens prepare for and respond to emergencies and natural disasters.

The Red Cross exemplifies one of the great strengths of America—the compassion of our people. Each year, the Red Cross responds to tens of thousands of disasters in the United States, from home fires and earthquakes to tornadoes and chemical spills. In Afghanistan and Iraq, the Red Cross is serving military families by delivering emergency messages between deployed members of our Armed Forces and their families. Through International Response Teams, the Red Cross provides vital aid overseas to the victims of disease, famine, war, and natural disasters. The Red Cross also educates individuals, families, schools, businesses, and communities about the importance of disaster preparedness, especially after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. By offering health and safety training such as first aid, CPR, and aquatic lifesaving, and by facilitating the collection of millions of units of blood for donation, the Red Cross helps our country to handle emergencies.

Many of the essential services of the American Red Cross are provided by volunteers who give their time and energy to help fellow citizens in need. During Red Cross relief operations, these volunteers assess damages, drive emergency response vehicles to distribute food and other supplies to people, and shelter families who have been evacuated from their homes. As we celebrate American Red Cross Month, I encourage all Americans to commit themselves to helping others by volunteering in their communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America and Honorary Chairman of the American Red Cross, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2004 as American Red Cross Month. I urge all Americans to support this organization's humanitarian mission. On behalf of a grateful Nation, we also applaud the selfless dedication of Red Cross employees and volunteers.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

GEORGE W. BUSH