

Because the United States and Bulgaria do not have a bilateral mutual legal assistance treaty in force between them, the MLA Agreement is a partial treaty governing only those issues regulated by the U.S.-EU Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement, specifically: identification of bank information, joint investigative teams, video-conferencing, expedited transmission of requests, assistance to administrative authorities, use limitations, confidentiality, and grounds for refusal. This approach is consistent with that taken with the other EU Member States (Denmark, Finland, Malta, Portugal, Slovak Republic, and Slovenia) with which the United States did not have an existing mutual legal assistance treaty.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Extradition Treaty and MLA Agreement, along with the U.S.-EU Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance Agreements and the other related bilateral instruments between the United States and European Union Member States.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,  
January 22, 2008.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 23.

## Remarks During a Briefing With Mayors on Free Trade Agreements *January 23, 2008*

I'm so honored that mayors from around our country have come. First of all, I want to thank you all very much for serving. I've often said being mayor is a lot tougher than being President—I don't have to fill the potholes and empty the garbage. [*Laughter*] But I thank you for serving our country.

We've got mayors from both political parties here. We didn't have a political discussion; we had a discussion on what's best for America, particularly given the economic uncertainty we face. I talked to them about my desire to work with the Congress to get a stimulus package passed, one that's going to be robust enough to affect the economy, simple enough for people to understand it, and efficient enough to have an impact. And I'm confident that we can get something done. There's a spirit of—that is—that says, we need to take a fundamentally strong economy and help it with a—deal with the uncertainties with a progrowth package.

One way we can also send a message that we can—want to continue to grow is to open up markets for U.S. products and services. We were talking about these trade votes that are coming up in front of the Congress and the importance of getting markets opened up for our workers and entrepreneurs. These trade agreements that we're about to vote on—there are goods coming from their countries coming to our country relatively tariff free; our goods and services going to their country with a tariff on it. In other words, they're not treating us the way we're treating them.

The American people expect us to be—expect America to be treated fairly, and that's what these free trade agreements do. It certainly doesn't make any sense to say in a country like Colombia, your goods can come in our way, but our goods can't come your way—being treated the same way. And by opening up markets, by having us treated fairly, we'll have 100 million new customers. And I like that opportunity for American workers and farmers and

businesspeople. See, I believe we can compete with anybody, anywhere, so long as the rules are fair.

And so these mayors who are living close to the people understand that by opening up markets, businesses in their communities and workers in their communities will benefit. And I want to thank you all for coming. We have a good opportunity to get the deal done, and I'm looking forward

to working with Congress to get these packages passed. These are progrowth, and they're good for America. And thanks for giving Secretary Gutierrez and I a chance to visit with you.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:45 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

## Statement on Signing an Executive Order To Reform How the United States Reviews National Security Concerns That May Arise From Foreign Investments

January 23, 2008

Today I issued an Executive order reforming how the United States reviews national security concerns that may arise from foreign investments, in light of the Foreign Investment and National Security Act of 2007. The Executive order furthers the goals of the new law by ensuring that the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States will review carefully the national security concerns, if any, raised by certain foreign investments into the United States. The Executive order reaffirms our

commitment to open economies and our policy of welcoming foreign investment and the important economic benefits that such investment brings. At the same time, the Executive order sets forth procedures for protecting our national security, recognizing that our openness is vital to our prosperity and security.

NOTE: The statement referred to Executive Order 13456, which is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Remarks on a Bipartisan Economic Growth Agreement

January 24, 2008

This morning my administration reached an agreement with Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader Boehner on an economic growth package. And, Mr. Secretary, thank you for handling negotiations, and appreciate your hard work.

This agreement was the result of intensive discussions and many phone calls, late-night meetings, and the kind of cooperation that some predicted was not possible here

in Washington. It also required patience, determination, and good will. I thank the Speaker and I thank Leader Boehner for their hard work and for their leadership and for showing the American people that we can come together to help our Nation deal with difficult economic challenges.

I am pleased that this agreement meets the criterion that I set forth last week to provide an effective, robust, and temporary