

GUAM DAILY POST • WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2019

Tech war prompts US to consider taxing French products

WASHINGTON (Tribune News Service) - The U.S. proposed tariffs on roughly \$2.4 billion in French products, in response to a tax on digital revenues that hits large American tech companies including Google, Apple Inc., Facebook Inc. and Amazon.com Inc.

"France's digital services tax discriminates against U.S. companies," the office of the U.S. Trade Representative said in a statement Monday.

Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said the agency is also exploring whether to open investigations into similar digital taxes by Austria, Italy and Turkey. The move comes hours after President Donald Trump announced a barrage of other tariffs on steel and aluminum from Argentina and Brazil.

"USTR's decision today sends a clear signal that the United States will take action against digital tax regimes that discriminate or otherwise impose undue burdens on U.S. companies," Lighthizer said in the statement. "The USTR is focused on countering the growing protectionism of EU member states, which unfairly targets U.S. companies."

The tariffs would be imposed after a public comment period concludes



TECH TAX: French President Emmanuel Macron right, and President Donald Trump shake hands during a joint-press conference in Biarritz, southwest France on Aug. 26, on the third day of the annual G7 Summit. The U.S. has proposed tariffs on roughly \$2.4 billion in French products in response to a tax on digital revenues that hits large American tech companies. Ludovic Marin/AFP/Getty Images/Tribune News Service

in early 2020 and interested parties have a chance to weigh in on the proposed duties.

Monday's report concludes a more than four-month-long probe, known as a Section 301 investigation, into France's tax regime, which Lighthizer in July said "unfairly targets American companies." The same law was used last year to examine China's intel-

lectual property practices that led to tariffs on more than \$360 billion in Chinese goods.

Trump in August suggested tariffs of up to 100% on French wine and told aides that while he's not generally empathetic with U.S. tech companies, he believes it should be the U.S. - not any other country - that taxes them, people familiar with internal deliberations said.

In the statement Monday, USTR said the proposed action includes "additional duties of up to 100% on certain French products."

Sparkling wine, cheeses, handbags and cosmetics are on the list of potential tariff targets, according to the notice. An official at the French Finance Ministry said Minister Bruno Le Maire wouldn't comment on the decision until Tuesday.

The U.S. move is a setback for efforts to stop a conflict over digital tax from intensifying. President Donald Trump and France's Emmanuel Macron agreed in August to try to find a compromise, but a 90-day deadline for talks expired last week without a resolution.

The U.S. tariffs and the French tax are likely to be a priority during a meeting between Trump and Macron on Tuesday, on the sidelines of a NATO conference in London.

Macron argues that moving ahead with a tax on tech companies is

necessary because the structure of the global economy has shifted to one based on data, rendering current systems archaic. His government is trying to use France's national tax as a bargaining chip, saying it would withdraw it if there is agreement on an international solution - in talks under the stewardship of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

There were signs of progress in recent weeks when the OECD proposed a "unified approach" to merge proposals that differed over whether to single out digital companies or have a broader approach. But French Finance Minister Le Maire said ahead of the USTR announcement that the U.S. has backed off from supporting an OECD compromise.

"They've said they aren't sure they want a solution at the OECD," Le Maire said on radio station France Inter. "We will never abandon our will to tax digital giants in a fair way."

The Internet Association, which represents tech companies, said it welcomed the USTR's decision.

"The French DST is one of a growing number of concerning unilateral tax regimes around the world," Jordan Haas, the IA's director of trade policy, said in a statement. "We encourage all countries that are contemplating passing a go-it-alone tax to focus efforts on the global solution."

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GUAM BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS

Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, December 12, 2019
at 3:00 PM

at the Health Professional Licensing Office Board Conference Room, Terlaje Professional Bldg., 2nd Floor Suite 209 Hagåtña, Guam.

Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations may call the ADA at 735-7172.

GUAM BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR PHARMACY

Regular Board Meeting,
Thursday, December 12, 2019
at 7:30 AM

at the Health Professional Licensing Office Board Conference Room, Terlaje Professional Bldg., 2nd Floor, Suite 219, Hagåtña.

For more information, please contact the Board office at 735-7408 or 735-7413. Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations may call 735-7408.

THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Commission Meeting,
Thursday, December 12, 2019
at 10:00 AM

at the Terlaje Professional Building, 194 Hernan Cortez Avenue, 2nd Floor, Suite 209 Health Professional Licensing Office Board Conference Room, Hagåtña, Guam.

For more information, please contact the Board Office at 735-7405-11. Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations may call the ADA Coordinator at 735-7172.

GUAM BOARD OF ALLIED HEALTH EXAMINERS

Regular Board Meeting,
Friday, December 6, 2019
at 12:00 PM

at the Terlaje Professional Building, 194 Hernan Cortez Avenue, 2nd Floor, Suite 209 Health Professional Licensing Office Board Conference Room, Hagåtña, Guam.

For more information please contact the Board office at 735-7405 thru 12. Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations may call 735-7172 or the telecommunication device for the Hearing/Speech Impaired (TDD) at 649-1801.

GUAM DAILY POST • TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019

4 UOG ROTC cadets place in nation's top 20%




LEFT: Four cadets from the University of Guam Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps were recognized for earning the nationwide honor of Distinguished Military Graduate at a Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 12 at the UOG Calvo Field House. The four cadets placed in the top 20% of more than 5,000 Army ROTC graduates nationwide, according to UOG. The honor is determined by grade-point average, performance on the Army physical fitness test, demonstrated leadership in their training and character. Pictured, from left, are the four cadets: Lucand Camacho; Brendan Santos; Michael Schommer; and Jeanie Nguyen.

BOTTOM LEFT: Jeanie Nguyen, a cadet in the University of Guam ROTC program, shakes hands with, from left, Maj. Gen. Esther J.C. Aguigui, adjutant general of the Guam National Guard; UOG President Thomas W. Krise and Lt. Col. Thomas N. Anderson, professor of military science, at a Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 12 at the UOG Calvo Field House upon receiving word that she has been selected as a Distinguished Military Graduate within the nationwide Army ROTC program.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Michael Schommer, a cadet in the University of Guam ROTC program, shakes hands with Maj. Gen. Esther J.C. Aguigui, adjutant general of the Guam National Guard, at a Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 12 at the UOG Calvo Field House upon receiving word that he has been selected as a Distinguished Military Graduate within the nationwide Army ROTC program.

Photos courtesy of University of Guam





I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guáhan
requests the honor of your presence for the

State Memorial Service

Honoring the late Honorable

Eduardo Calvo Artero

Former Mayor, Municipality of Yigo

on Wednesday, December 11, 2019, at 8:00 a.m.

Speaker Antonio R. Unpingco Legislative Session Hall
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam

R.S.V.P. 472-3499 Attire:
Business Formal

GUAM BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS

Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, December 12, 2019
at 3:00 PM

at the Health Professional Licensing Office Board Conference Room, Terlaje Professional Bldg., 2nd Floor Suite 209 Hagåtña, Guam.

Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations may call the ADA at 735-7172.

GUAM BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR PHARMACY

Regular Board Meeting,
Thursday, December 12, 2019
at 7:30 AM

at the Health Professional Licensing Office Board Conference Room, Terlaje Professional Bldg., 2nd Floor, Suite 219, Hagåtña.

For more information, please contact the Board office at 735-7408 or 735-7413. Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations may call 735-7408.



GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY
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The Public Notice is paid for by government funds, and is paid for by Guam Memorial Hospital Authority

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) will be conducting a Public Hearing on new hospital rates, fees and charges. Documents relating to this proceeding are available on our website at www.gmha.org under Public Information - GMHA Press Release - GMHA Public Hearing. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Frumen Patacsil, Hospital Quality Improvement Specialist at 648-7945 or Ms. Yukari Hechanova, Acting Chief Financial Officer at 647-2367.

Date: Friday, December 20, 2019
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: GMHA Daniel L. Webb Conference Room, Administration Wing, 850 Gov Carlos Camacho Road, Oka Tamuning, Guam.

Individuals requiring special accommodations should contact Toni Tenorio, ADA Coordinator, at 647-2218/2367 to make appropriate arrangements.

