

MEMO# 12492

August 16, 2000

INSTITUTE LETTER TO TREASURY AND USTR REGARDING PENSION PRIORITIES

[12492] August 16, 2000 TO: INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE No. 26-00 RE: INSTITUTE LETTER TO TREASURY AND USTR REGARDING PENSION PRIORITIES In response to comments submitted by the Institute¹ and others, the Transatlantic Economic Partnership (TEP) trade discussions between the US and the European Union will focus, in part, on pension issues. We also expect pension issues to be an important topic in the World Trade Organization (WTO) services discussions, which began this year. With this increased attention on pensions, the Institute staff has been in discussions with the trade negotiators at USTR and Treasury regarding pension issues of interest to Institute members. To further delineate Institute members' interest in opening pension markets around the world, the Institute submitted the attached letter to USTR and Treasury outlining the Institute's priorities with respect to pensions. The letter discusses two areas of particular concern for members in managing pension assets -- express market access restrictions and regulatory requirements that operate to deny effective market access. The letter also discusses additional pension issues in countries that are considering defined- contribution types of retirement systems and describes a tax impediment to effective international investment of retirement plan assets. Although these additional matters are not strictly trade priorities, we wanted to make the trade negotiators aware of these issues, which also are of concern to members in managing effectively pension assets. Jennifer S. Choi Assistant Counsel Attachment Attachment (in .pdf format) 1 See Letter from Mary S. Podesta, Senior Counsel, ICI, to Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, USTR, dated July 6, 1998.