

STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.
APRIL 18, 2013

Re: Reducing Regulatory Burdens and Facilitating Investment by Streamlining Foreign Ownership Review

With this item to streamline and modernize our policies for reviewing foreign ownership, we take another action in our agency-wide efforts to eliminate unnecessary regulations and improve the transparency and predictability of the Commission's work.

Ultimately, this action will unleash more foreign investment, an important source of financing for U.S. telecommunications companies, fostering technical innovation, economic growth, and job creation.

In the first days of my chairmanship, I launched an agency-wide review of rules and regulations, appointing a Special Counsel for FCC Reform, and asking all of the Bureaus to incorporate such review into their daily work.

Agency-wide, we've made significant progress. We've eliminated over 300 regulations since January 2011. And we continue to review data collections, reduce backlogs, and improve processes.

The International Bureau has been a leader in this effort. Among many actions, they've streamlined the international reporting requirements in Part 43 of our rules, removing five unnecessary data collections, as well as eliminating reporting requirements for over 1000 small carriers – leading to an overall estimated 30% reduction in industry burden.

They've removed the International Settlements Policy (ISP) from the Commission's rules – allowing U.S. carriers more flexibility to negotiate commercial agreements for international telephone rates.

And they are in the middle of a proceeding to streamline and modernize the Commission's rules related to satellite licensing.

The *Foreign Ownership Second Report and Order* is yet another step in the reform of our rules.

This Order is the result of a review of our policies and procedures for foreign ownership review under sections 310(b) of the Communications Act as they apply to common carrier wireless and certain aeronautical radio station licensees. It will:

(1) reduce the regulatory costs and burdens imposed on wireless common carrier and aeronautical applicants, licensees, and spectrum lessees by reducing the number of petitions by 40 to 70 percent, as well as the number of burden hours;

(2) provide greater transparency and more predictability with respect to the Commission's foreign ownership filing requirements and review process; and

(3) facilitate investment from new sources of capital, while continuing to protect important interests related to national security, law enforcement, foreign policy, and trade policy.

I thank the staff for all their hard work on this and on the many reforms they've made over the last few years.