

HR 2267

Middle East Trade and Engagement Act of 2003

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: May 22, 2003

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Trade.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Trade. (Jun 5, 2003)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/house-bill/2267>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Smith, Adam [D-WA-9]

Party: Democratic • State: WA • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Dooley, Calvin M. [D-CA-20]	D · CA		May 22, 2003

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 5, 2003

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
108 HR 2467	Related bill	<b>Jun 19, 2003:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Trade.
108 S 1121	Identical bill	<b>May 22, 2003:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text of measure as introduced: CR S7005-7007)

Middle East Trade and Engagement Act of 2003 - Authorizes the President to designate any of 18 specified Middle Eastern countries as a beneficiary country if the country meets specified requirements, which focus on economic policy, the rule of law, political freedom, alignment with U.S. trade and foreign policy interests, the promotion of human rights, and combating terrorism. Authorizes the President to designate the Palestinian Authority as a beneficiary country if it satisfies specified requirements, including cooperation in anti-terrorism efforts and the acceptance of Israel's right to exist.

Authorizes the President to designate articles from all beneficiary countries, including Israel and Jordan, as eligible for duty-free treatment, subject to rules of origin requirements and certain restrictions under existing law.

Requires the President to establish a United States-Middle East Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum.

Declares that bilateral free trade agreements should be negotiated with interested countries or political entities in the greater Middle East. Requires any country or political entity that desires to negotiate such an agreement with the United States to be a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) or working toward WTO membership and to satisfy the criteria for designation as a beneficiary country. Directs the President to develop a plan for negotiating and entering into trade agreements with interested beneficiary countries.

Terminates the preferential treatment extended to beneficiary countries under this Act on December 31, 2011.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jun 5, 2003:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Trade.
- **May 22, 2003:** Introduced in House
- **May 22, 2003:** Introduced in House
- **May 22, 2003:** Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.