

**JOINT STATEMENT ON TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS
OF THE LEADING EUROPEAN BUSINESS ORGANIZATION
AND 8 U.S. BUSINESS GROUPS**

**May 6, 2004
Washington, DC**

**“U.S. and European Companies, Workers and Consumers
Need a Strong Transatlantic Economic Relationship”**

On the occasion of a meeting in Washington between a high-level delegation of European business executives led by Dr Jürgen Strube, UNICE’s President and the Chairman of the Supervisory Board of BASF and U.S. leading business organisations, the organisations listed below are issuing the following joint statement to underscore the importance of the transatlantic economic relationship for European and American companies, workers and consumers. This joint statement is addressed to the leaders of the United States and European Union—U.S. President George W. Bush, European Council President and Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern and European Commission President Romano Prodi —who will meet in Ireland on June 25-26 at a U.S.-EU Transatlantic Summit.

Joint Statement

1. Our business organizations, representing small, medium and large companies from all sectors on both sides of the Atlantic attach great importance to the transatlantic relationship. Tens of thousands of European and American manufacturing and service companies derive a large share of their business from transatlantic trade and investment. They also have become more competitive in the global marketplace because of strengths and complementarities derived from transatlantic partnerships and collaboration. More than 13 million jobs in the United States and Europe are supported by these trade and investment ties. We all agree that European and U.S. companies, workers and consumers need a strong transatlantic economic relationship.
2. Our economies are so interdependent that policies on one side of the Atlantic often have repercussions throughout the transatlantic marketplace. We are concerned that trade disputes, protectionist pressures, foreign policy and other differences particularly in the regulatory field are straining the transatlantic relationship at a time when cooperation is more necessary than ever for the security and prosperity of all. We therefore call on our political leaders to strengthen and further deepen the transatlantic partnership and to intensify dialogue and cooperation. These efforts should seek to facilitate the convergence of positions and actions, prevent new tensions and eliminate existing ones in pragmatic, constructive ways. Trade disputes should be resolved to the maximum extent possible through negotiations before resorting to the WTO dispute settlement and in any case in full consistency with WTO rules.
3. While maintaining our strong support for active EU and U.S. engagement and leadership in international and multilateral institutions, we also give our support to a new, more ambitious Transatlantic trade and investment initiative aimed at expanding opportunities for economic growth, strengthening competitiveness in the global marketplace and boosting EU-U.S. cooperation at the multilateral level. A further

reduction in trade and investment barriers, particularly regulatory and other non-tariff barriers, should be a central goal of this initiative. We agree to work together and with other interested business groups as well as with our respective administrations in the coming months to examine the scope and priorities of such a forward-looking project with a view to making progress by next year's Transatlantic Summit.

4. We firmly believe that a strong WTO rules-based multilateral trading system and the advancement of multilateral trade liberalisation for goods, services and agriculture are essential to promoting growth, opportunity and prosperity in our own economies and those around the world. We would like, therefore, to see significant progress this year in the WTO Doha Development Agenda negotiations in order to conclude the round as soon as possible. We urge our respective negotiators to show leadership in bringing all WTO members' positions closer together. The negotiations should seek to achieve, as early as possible, the framework agreements required to permit a timely, ambitious and balanced outcome to the Doha Development Agenda centered on providing more open and predictable conditions for trade in agriculture, industrial goods and services, with built-in flexibility especially for poorer developing countries. We acknowledge that agreement on improved trading rules, including trade facilitation and enhanced transparency provisions, along side continued vigorous capacity building and technical assistance for poorer developing countries, are also essential to realizing the full potential of the Doha Development Agenda. Together we will work to promote these goals in cooperation with partner business organisations from developed and developing countries.
5. We support the fight against all forms of terrorism which is a challenge for the entire international community, and urge closer cooperation between governments on both sides of the Atlantic. We call on them to coordinate development and implementation of their respective policies and actions and to promote effective security standards at the international level that take account of legitimate trade and investment flows which generate economic development and that do not unnecessarily overburden companies. Security and trade facilitation should be mutually supportive. The Transatlantic business community is prepared to work with EU and U.S. administrations to strike the right balance between trade facilitation and security on the basis of the practical experience of companies.
6. Our organizations are committed to a strong and open transatlantic economic relationship and look forward to working together and cooperating actively with those in government and the private sector that share this goal.

Signatories

UNICE (Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations of Europe) www.unice.org

Business Roundtable www.businessroundtable.org

CSI (Coalition of Service Industries) www.uscsi.org

EABC (European-American Business Council) www.EABC.org

ECAT (Emergency Committee for American Trade) www.ecattrade.com

NAM (National Association of Manufacturers) www.nam.org

NFTC (National Foreign Trade Council) www.nftc.org

OFII (Organisation for International Investments) www.ofii.org

USCIB (United States Council for International Business) www.uscib.org