



7 September 2009

JOINT BUSINESSEUROPE – US CHAMBER EVENT: EU & US – ON A JOINT APPROACH TO GLOBAL SECURITY?

Monday, 7 September 2009, 14h00-17h30
Room 'Europe'

OPENING REMARKS BY ADRIAN VAN DEN HOVEN, BUSINESSEUROPE DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- I am extremely pleased to have such a large number of participants from both the European and US business communities that join us today at this joint event of BUSINESSEUROPE and the US Chamber; it shows that the issues to be discussed are of key interest for companies on both sides of the Atlantic.
- The US and European economies are highly intertwined and dependant on each other. Some key figures:
 - Trade in goods
 - EU exports to US €267.9 billion
 - US exports to EU €176.5 billion
 - Trade in services
 - EU exports to US €119.8 billion
 - US exports to EU €114.1 billion

The value of the transatlantic community amounts to \$3.75 trillion in commercial sales (subsidiaries + trade) per year and has created 14 million jobs.
- Both our organizations are deeply concerned that the current economic crisis does not cause a disintegration of the transatlantic market. Disjointed responses of the European Union and United States may hamper economic recovery and future growth on both sides of the Atlantic. For instance, a lack of cooperation amongst regulators, in applying new regulatory schemes, may create new barriers adversely impacting capital formation. This would depress our long-term growth potential even as the EU and U.S. try to pull us out of recession.
- Fortunately, the U.S. and EU have established the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC), which can help avoid this outcome. The strength of the TEC process is that it brings together an unparalleled group of European Commissioners, the EU Presidency and Cabinet-level U.S. officials. The TEC can and should ensure that necessary regulations do not create unnecessary barriers to productivity, growth, job creation, innovation, trade or investment. In a time such as ours, this role is vital.
- The TEC rightly puts security as one of its key priorities – the issues we are discussing today. BUSINESSEUROPE and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce continue to believe that high levels of security do not need to be a barrier to trade



and investment. Smart risk-based approaches, developed in close cooperation with affected industries will deliver the best results.

- Without wanting to anticipate our discussions today, I just want to say some words about the issues to be discussed later:
- We support the position of the Department on Homeland Security that implementation of the U.S. 100% scanning legislation by 2012 will not be possible. A legislative solution, guaranteeing the same level of security in practice but creating less administrative burden will need to be found. We also urge both U.S. and EU to better utilize such critical security bodies as the World Customs Organization to develop shared approaches to secure trade.
- On C-TPAT – the Customs Trade Partnership against Terrorism, and AEO –the Authorised Economic Operator, we are increasingly concerned about the lack of demonstrable progress towards mutual recognition of these secure shipper programmes. It is important that the goal of achieving this in 2009 is adhered to if real value for companies is to be achieved.
- I hope that our discussions today will help us to make progress on these two issues. I am sure we will have some very interesting presentations by our high-level speakers present today and I look forward to interesting and lively discussions.
- I now want to pass the floor to our first speaker, Michael Schmitz, Director of Compliance and Facilitation at the World Customs Organization, to learn about the WCO's activities in the area of secure trade and its views on the issues discussed today.
- Thank you for your attention, Michael you have the floor.
