



EUROPEAN UNION **~BACKGROUND~**

EU-US SUMMIT **(Lisbon, 20 November 2010)**

The European Union is hosting this year's EU-US Summit in Lisbon, Portugal, on 20 November 2010. The EU will be represented by Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council and José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission. The United States will be represented by President Barack Obama. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, and the US Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton, will also attend the summit.

Global economy

The main focus of the summit will be on jobs and growth. Leaders are expected, following the G20 Summit in Seoul, to identify ways in which the EU and the US can work together for a sustainable and balanced global economic recovery. They will emphasize the role of the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC) in boosting commerce and generating employment and look at ways of working for an ambitious, comprehensive and balanced agreement in the WTO Doha Round. They will also task the EU-US Energy Council to enhance cooperation on clean-energy technologies (see separate background note).

Climate change, international development and security

Leaders will also discuss climate change, international development and security. The EU and the US are expected to restate the commitments made at Copenhagen last December to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to seek a positive outcome at the Cancun conference. As the worlds' two leading donors of development assistance, they are likely to discuss ways of maximizing the effectiveness of their aid. They are expected to stress their commitment to greater collaboration in security and development, across the spectrum of conflict-prevention, crisis response and long-term development.

Global security issues

Leaders will also look at ways in which the EU and the US can work together on a growing range of security issues that affect citizens on both sides of the Atlantic, such as cyber attacks and cyber crime, as well as violent extremism and terrorism. Joint EU-US efforts to promote security around the world, including support for the Middle East Peace Process, efforts to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue and measures to assist Pakistan and stabilize Sudan are also part of the deepening EU-US partnership.

P R E S S

EU-US RELATIONS

The US is the EU's foremost strategic partner. The EU Security Strategy states that "*The transatlantic relationship is irreplaceable. Acting together, the European Union and the United States can be a formidable force for good in the world.*"

This will be the first EU summit with the US since the Lisbon Treaty entered into force, streamlining the EU's external action and creating a permanent President of the European Council who chairs summits with the EU's partner countries. It will be an important opportunity to reaffirm the importance of the deepening EU-US relationship which, based on shared values and political experience and growing economic interdependence, is vital in bringing prosperity and security to 800 million citizens on the two sides of the Atlantic.

Summit meetings

The EU and US have met at summit level since 1995, when the **New Transatlantic Agenda Declaration** was adopted, setting out the basic goals of EU-US cooperation. A number of regular thematic meetings (for example on legislation and business) are also held. Summit meetings were first established in 1990 when the original **Transatlantic Declaration** was adopted.

The last US-EU Summit was held in November 2009 in Washington DC. The EU and the US discussed economic recovery, climate change, development and foreign policy issues. They signed a joint declaration on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament and a statement on development dialogue and cooperation. They also welcomed the joint statement on enhancing policy and operational cooperation adopted by their Justice and Home Affairs ministers on 28 October 2009.

GOALS OF EU-US COOPERATION

- *Promoting peace and stability, democracy and development around the world;*
- *Responding to global challenges, including international crime, drug-trafficking, terrorism, climate change, the environment or diseases;*
- *Contributing to the expansion of world trade and closer economic relations — strengthening the multilateral trading system and promoting closer economic relations;*
- *Building bridges across the Atlantic.* — forging closer ties between professionals in business, science, education and culture.

AREAS OF EU-US COOPERATION

Trade and economic relations

Together, the EU and the US economies account for some **53 per cent of world GDP and 31 per cent of world trade**. The EU-US economic partnership is currently worth 4.28 trillion-dollars and is a key driver of global economic prosperity, representing the largest, most integrated, and longest-lasting economic relationship in the world.

The Transatlantic Economic Partnership was launched at the London summit in May 1998. The [Framework for Advancing Transatlantic Economic Integration](#) was adopted at the 2007 EU-US summit, when the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC) was set up to boost transatlantic economic ties.

The EU and US form the largest trade and investment relationship in the world and are each other's largest trade and investment partners. The volume of trade in goods and services taken together amounted to about € 610.9 billion in 2009. Large as it is, this is now far outweighed by the stocks of investment on both sides, which constitute the most significant element of our economic relationship. In 2008, the EU had € 1058.05 billion of direct investment stocks in the US, while the US had € 1046.16 billion in the EU; this adds up to a total of more than € 2.1 trillion, as compared to the two-way investment stocks between the EU and China (€ 61.14 billion). Transatlantic economic links remain strong, despite the impact of the economic crisis. US exports to Europe fell nearly 20% in the first three quarters of 2009 and US imports fell 24% from the same period in 2008.

Foreign policy

As major world powers, the EU and the US share global responsibility and cooperate on a wide range of foreign policy issues, including the Middle East Peace Process, Pakistan and Afghanistan, non-proliferation and regional conflicts. High Representative Catherine Ashton, and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton hold regular consultations. The US and the EU also work together towards alleviating poverty and disease and together provide about 80 per cent of official development assistance worldwide.

Defence and Security

The EU and the US collaborate on a wide range of common security and defence policy issues. An important example is the US participation in the EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX). The US contributes 81 secondees to the total of 1700 international staff in the mission.

Cooperation between the EU and the United States, together with their African partners, is also essential to the success of the EU Training Mission for Somali soldiers in Somalia and Uganda. The US covers the cost of transport, equipment and salaries.

Justice and Home Affairs

Justice and Home Affairs matters have been central topics at previous EU-US summits and issues such as border protection, visa regimes, information-sharing for law-enforcement purposes, organized crime or drug trafficking are regularly discussed. The EU and the US have implemented a series of accords on matters including extradition and mutual legal assistance, the transfer of passenger name records and the terrorist finance tracking programme.

Aviation

The EU and the US adopted the Second Stage Air Transport Agreement on 25 March 2010. In addition to providing investment and market-access opportunities, the pact aims to boost cooperation on regulatory issues, in areas such as the environment, safety and security as well as on the social dimension of EU-US aviation relations.

Environment and Energy

Climate change and environmental legislation are important areas of EU-US cooperation. The EU-US High Level Dialogue on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development was established at the 2006 summit in Vienna. The forum supports and promotes efforts to reduce pollution and greenhouse-gas emissions while supporting economic growth.

EU-US Energy Council

The EU-US Energy Council was set up after the 2009 summit when the development of renewable energy and global energy security were identified as priorities. The EU-US Energy Council is scheduled to meet on the sidelines of the EU-US Summit in Lisbon on 19 November. (*See separate background note*).

Science and Technology:

An EU-US Science and Technology Agreement was adopted in 1998 and extended from 2008 to 2013. It provides a framework for collaboration in research areas including environmental science, information and communication technologies, cleaner energy sources, biotechnology and nanoscience. In addition, the European Research Framework Programme promotes international collaboration for scientists and engineers from all over the world and provides fellowships for European researchers to work abroad and non-European researchers to work in Europe.
