



## **EUROPEAN UNION** **~BACKGROUND~**

### **EU-US SUMMIT** **(Washington, 28 November 2011)**

The United States will host this year's EU-US Summit in Washington DC on 28 November 2011. 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 US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will also attend the summit, together with other representatives of the US administration. A meeting of the EU-US Energy Council will take place on 28 November, just before the summit and the Transatlantic Economic Council will meet on 29 November.

#### **Global economy**

The main focus of the summit will be the global economic situation. Leaders are expected to discuss the EU and US responses to the crisis and how to support growth and job creation. They will look for ways to realize the full potential of transatlantic economic cooperation. In this context, they will launch a high-level working group on jobs and growth, to identify options for strengthening the EU-US economic relationship, especially those that have potential to create jobs. These options are to be presented at the next EU-US summit in 2012. Leaders will also urge regulators and standard setters to step up cooperation and develop compatible approaches concerning emerging technologies so as to avoid negative effects on trade.

#### **Foreign policy cooperation**

Leaders will discuss how to collaborate more closely in supporting the transition processes and reforms underway in the Arab world. They will also seek to support economic reforms in the region and confirm their interest in increasing trade and investment links with these countries. Joint efforts to promote security around the world, including support for the Middle East Peace Process and work to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue, are also on the agenda. Leaders will in addition debate shared priorities in promoting security and fostering modernization in the EU's Eastern neighborhood. Finally, they will 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 terrorism.

# **P R E S S**

## Climate change, energy and international development

Leaders will review the work of the EU-US Energy Council, established in November 2009, to foster common approaches to issues such as energy security, open markets, energy research and the sustainable and safe production of energy resources. Leaders will also discuss climate change: they are expected to reaffirm their commitments made at the Copenhagen and Cancún climate conferences, working closely together to ensure a positive outcome at the Durban conference. As the world's two leading donors of development assistance, they will also coordinate their positions in advance of the fourth high-level forum on aid effectiveness starting on 29 November in Busan, Korea. They are likely to discuss ways of maximizing the aid effectiveness, including transparency about aid programs, reduced aid fragmentation and a focus on results. Leaders will also exchange views on the ongoing political dialogue on development which covers the Millennium Development Goals, food security, climate change, health and the security/development nexus.

## 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.*"

The summit 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 2010 in Lisbon.

## 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

The EU-US economic partnership is a key driver of global economic prosperity, representing the largest and most integrated economic relationship in the world. Together, the EU and the US economies account for **49 per cent of world GDP and a third of world trade**. They trade more than € 1.8 billion per day in goods and services while more than 15 million jobs are linked to this relationship.

The EU and US are each other's biggest trade and investment partners. The volume of trade in goods and services taken together amounted to about € 667.8 billion in 2010, up from € 610 billion in 2009. Large as it is, this is far outweighed by the stocks of investment on both sides, which constitute the most significant element of our economic relationship. In 2009, the EU had € 1134 billion of direct investment stocks in the US, while the US had € 1044.1 billion in the EU; this adds up to a total of more than € 2 trillion, as compared to the two-way investment stocks between the EU and China (€ 64 billion in 2009). Transatlantic economic links have rebounded in 2010 after the impact of the economic crisis was felt in 2009. US exports to Europe increased by 14% in 2010 and imports from US rose by 20% over 2009.

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.

### 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 Arab Spring, the Middle East Peace Process, Pakistan and Afghanistan, non-proliferation and regional conflicts. EU 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 and unprecedented example is the US participation in the EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX). The US contributes about 60 secondees to the total of 1550 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, mutual legal assistance and the terrorist finance tracking programme. Negotiations on a new agreement for the transfer of passenger name records have recently been concluded. Negotiators on an umbrella data protection agreement for the exchange of law enforcement related information are underway.

## **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. The EU and the US work closely together in the multilateral context and via the Major Economies Forum.

## **EU-US Energy Council**

The EU-US Energy Council was set up after the 2009 summit in order to deepen the dialogue on strategic energy issues of mutual interest, foster cooperation on energy policies and further strengthen research collaboration on sustainable and clean energy technologies. Three thematic working groups have been established, concerning global energy security, energy policies and energy technology.

## **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 EU 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.

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