Joint Statement by U.S. President Obama, European Commission President Barroso and European Council President Van Rompuy

The transatlantic relationship is the world's largest economic relationship, accounting for half of global economic output and nearly one trillion dollars in goods and services trade and supporting millions of jobs on both sides of the Atlantic.

Still, there is more to be done to deepen and broaden our ties. Particularly at this time, a bold initiative to expand trade and investment could make a significant contribution to our strategy to strengthen growth and create jobs.

In that regard, we received the Interim Report of the High Level Working Group on Jobs and Growth, and welcomed the Group's thorough assessment of all the options to achieve that objective.

We are encouraged by the Report's analysis of the benefits of an ambitious and comprehensive market opening arrangement for agricultural and manufactured goods, services and investment, the identification of ways to promote compatible regulatory approaches and tackle behind-the-border barriers, and possible approaches to intellectual property rights.

A strong outcome can enhance not only transatlantic economic ties, but also address shared market access challenges in third countries and encourage a forward-looking multilateral trade liberalization agenda.

We therefore urge the Group to complete its work as quickly as possible, including consultations with public and private stakeholders, in accordance with the respective processes of both sides, with the goal of reaching a recommendation to Leaders later this year on a decision as to the negotiations.
Dear Mr Marchionne,

Through their joint statement of 19 June in Los Cabos welcoming the interim report of the EU-US High Level Working Group (HLWG), Presidents Obama, Barroso and Van Rompuy have signalled their support for a bold initiative to expand trade and investment between the EU and the US, that could make a significant contribution to our strategy to strengthen growth and create jobs. It would consist of an ambitious and comprehensive market opening arrangement for agricultural and manufactured goods, services and investment, which among other objectives would promote compatible regulatory approaches and tackle unnecessary behind-the-border non-tariff barriers.

They have urged the HLWG to complete its work as quickly as possible and to consult with public and private stakeholders, in order to make a recommendation to the EU and US leaders later this year as to possible trade negotiations.

The Commission is now stepping up its preparatory work on the contents of such an initiative. Among the issues that need to be examined between now and the completion of the final HLWG report, the EU and US leaders have asked the HLWG to identify ways to promote compatible regulatory approaches and tackle behind-the-border barriers. To do so, the input of stakeholders and especially of industry is essential. We will therefore welcome the active involvement of your organisation in this important preparatory work. We need to better assess the main obstacles of a regulatory nature faced by your industry in the US that unnecessarily impede trade, their relative importance and priority and the benefits of addressing them, and to devise the most realistic means to address these in a mutually acceptable manner and within a reasonable timeframe.

Mr Sergio Marchionne
President
ACEA
Avenue de Nerviens 85
Bruxelles 1040
Belgium
This work should contribute to reducing the cost of doing business across the Atlantic and enhance in the future the compatibility of regulatory approaches, therefore bringing about significant benefits to our economies. To the greatest extent possible, concrete proposals for greater regulatory compatibility could be presented jointly by industry across the Atlantic, thereby enhancing the prospects of such proposals being actively considered by both EU and US regulators. Greater regulatory compatibility should be pursued and achieved whilst preserving the high levels of protection of health, safety, consumers and the environment enshrined in EU and US regulations.

In addition to a public consultation launched by the Directorate General TRADE on 28 June, inviting written submissions by the end of September, your organisation has recently been invited to meet with senior management in the Directorates General for Trade, Enterprise and Industry and Health and Consumer Policy, to examine those issues. We count on your active participation in this process as well as that of your members.

We are fully aware of the challenges posed by the existing unnecessary divergences between the EU and the US in quite a number of areas of regulatory activity and know well, from the intensive work carried out in this area over the last years, the efforts required from all involved to achieve results. However, we are convinced that the support and determination of the EU and US leaders now opens, as compared to prior transatlantic initiatives, a unique window of opportunity to make progress. We are therefore confident that our joint cooperation and commitment will help achieve concrete progress and make a real difference.

Yours sincerely,

Cc: Ivan Hodac, Eric Bergelin, Petr Dolejsi

Attachment: Joint Statement of 19 June, Los Cabos
Dear Mr Thumann,

Through their joint statement of 19 June in Los Cabos welcoming the interim report of the EU-US High Level Working Group (HLWG), Presidents Obama, Barroso and Van Rompuy have signalled their support for a bold initiative to expand trade and investment between the EU and the US, that could make a significant contribution to our strategy to strengthen growth and create jobs. It would consist of an ambitious and comprehensive market opening arrangement for agricultural and manufactured goods, services and investment, which among other objectives would promote compatible regulatory approaches and tackle unnecessary behind-the-border non-tariff barriers.

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Mr Jürgen Thumann
President
BUSINESSEUROPE
Av. de Cortenbergh, 168
1000 Brussels
Belgium
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Yours sincerely,

[Signatures]

Antonio TAJANI  
Karel DE GUCHT  
John DALLI

Cc: Messrs Philippe de Buck, Van den Hoven, Pascal Kerneis

Attachment: Joint Statement of 19 June, Los Cabos
Dear Mr Squinzi,

Through their joint statement of 19 June in Los Cabos welcoming the interim report of the EU-US High Level Working Group (HLWG), Presidents Obama, Barroso and Van Rompuy have signalled their support for a bold initiative to expand trade and investment between the EU and the US, that could make a significant contribution to our strategy to strengthen growth and create jobs. It would consist of an ambitious and comprehensive market opening arrangement for agricultural and manufactured goods, services and investment, which among other objectives would promote compatible regulatory approaches and tackle unnecessary behind-the-border non-tariff barriers.

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Mr Giorgio Squinzi
President
CEFIC
Avenue E. van Nieuwenhuyse, 4 box 1
1160 Brussels - Brussels
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Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Antonio TAJANI

[Signature]

Karel DE GUCHT

Cc: Hubert Mandery, Lena Perenius, van Sloten

Attachment: Joint Statement of 19 June, Los Cabos
Dear Mr Haydon,

Through their joint statement of 19 June in Los Cabos welcoming the interim report of the EU-US High Level Working Group (HLWG), Presidents Obama, Barroso and Van Rompuy have signalled their support for a bold initiative to expand trade and investment between the EU and the US, that could make a significant contribution to our strategy to strengthen growth and create jobs. It would consist of an ambitious and comprehensive market opening arrangement for agricultural and manufactured goods, services and investment, which among other objectives would promote compatible regulatory approaches and tackle unnecessary behind-the-border non-tariff barriers.

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Mr Kevin Haydon
President
COCIR
European Coordination Committee of the
Radiological, Electromedical and
Healthcare IT Industry
Bvd A. Reyers 80
1030 Brussels
This work should contribute to reducing the cost of doing business across the Atlantic and enhance in the future the compatibility of regulatory approaches, therefore bringing about significant benefits to our economies. To the greatest extent possible, concrete proposals for greater regulatory compatibility could be presented jointly by industry across the Atlantic, thereby enhancing the prospects of such proposals being actively considered by both EU and US regulators. Greater regulatory compatibility should be pursued and achieved whilst preserving the high levels of protection of health, safety, consumers and the environment enshrined in EU and US regulations.

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Yours sincerely,

[Signatures]

Antonio Tajani  
Karel De Gucht  
John Dalli

Cc: Nicole Denjoy

Attachment: Joint Statement of 19 June, Los Cabos
Dear Mr Franchina,

Through their joint statement of 19 June in Los Cabos welcoming the interim report of the EU-US High Level Working Group (HLWG), Presidents Obama, Barroso and Van Rompuy have signalled their support for a bold initiative to expand trade and investment between the EU and the US, that could make a significant contribution to our strategy to strengthen growth and create jobs. It would consist of an ambitious and comprehensive market opening arrangement for agricultural and manufactured goods, services and investment, which among other objectives would promote compatible regulatory approaches and tackle unnecessary behind-the-border non-tariff barriers.

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Mr Fabio Franchina
President
Cosmetics Europe - The Personal Care Association
Avenue Herrmann Debroux 40
B-1160 Auderghem
Brussels-Belgium
This work should contribute to reducing the cost of doing business across the Atlantic and enhance in the future the compatibility of regulatory approaches, therefore bringing about significant benefits to our economies. To the greatest extent possible, concrete proposals for greater regulatory compatibility could be presented jointly by industry across the Atlantic, thereby enhancing the prospects of such proposals being actively considered by both EU and US regulators. Greater regulatory compatibility should be pursued and achieved whilst preserving the high levels of protection of health, safety, consumers and the environment enshrined in EU and US regulations.

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Antonio TAJANI
Karel DE GUCHT
John DALLI

Cc: Bertil Heerink

Attachment: Joint Statement of 19 June, Los Cabos
Dear Mr Olson,

Through their joint statement of 19 June in Los Cabos welcoming the interim report of the EU-US High Level Working Group (HLWG), Presidents Obama, Barroso and Van Rompuy have signalled their support for a bold initiative to expand trade and investment between the EU and the US, that could make a significant contribution to our strategy to strengthen growth and create jobs. It would consist of an ambitious and comprehensive market opening arrangement for agricultural and manufactured goods, services and investment, which among other objectives would promote compatible regulatory approaches and tackle unnecessary behind-the-border non-tariff barriers.

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Mr Peter Olson
President
DIGITALEUROPE
Rue de la Science, 14
1040 Brussels
Belgium
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Yours sincerely,

Antonio TAJANI  
Karel DE GUCHT

Cc: John Higgins, Esa Kaunistola, Julia Jasinska

Attachment: Joint Statement of 19 June, Los Cabos
Dear Mr Schülze,

Through their joint statement of 19 June in Los Cabos welcoming the interim report of the EU-US High Level Working Group (HLWG), Presidents Obama, Barroso and Van Rompuy have signalled their support for a bold initiative to expand trade and investment between the EU and the US, that could make a significant contribution to our strategy to strengthen growth and create jobs. It would consist of an ambitious and comprehensive market opening arrangement for agricultural and manufactured goods, services and investment, which among other objectives would promote compatible regulatory approaches and tackle unnecessary behind-the-border non-tariff barriers.

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Mr Jürgen Schülze
President
EDMA
European Diagnostic Manufacturers Association
Place des Maieurs, 2
1150 Brussels - Belgium
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Yours sincerely,

Antonio TAJANI  
Karel DE GUCHT  
John DALLI

Cc: Christian Perry, Volker Oeding, Jesús Rueda, Katalin Máté

Attachment: Joint Statement of 19 June, Los Cabos
Dear Mr Tyroller,

Through their joint statement of 19 June in Los Cabos welcoming the interim report of the EU-US High Level Working Group (HLWG), Presidents Obama, Barroso and Van Rompuy have signalled their support for a bold initiative to expand trade and investment between the EU and the US, that could make a significant contribution to our strategy to strengthen growth and create jobs. It would consist of an ambitious and comprehensive market opening arrangement for agricultural and manufactured goods, services and investment, which among other objectives would promote compatible regulatory approaches and tackle unnecessary behind-the-border non-tariff barriers.

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Mr Peter Tyroller
President
CLEPA - European Association of Automotive Suppliers
Bvd Brand Whitlock 87
BE-1200 Brussels
Belgium
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Yours sincerely,

Antonio TAJANI

Karel DE GUCHT

Cc: Jean-Marc Gales, Eleri Wessman

Attachment: Joint Statement of 19 June, Los Cabos
Dear Mr Santus,

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Mr Giacomo Santus
President
The European Federation for Cosmetic Ingredients - EFFCI
29, Boulevard Louis Schmidt
B-1040 Brussels (Belgium)
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Yours sincerely,

[Signatures]

Antonio TAJANI  Karel DE GUCHT  John DALLI

Cc: Peter Ungeheuer

Attachment: Joint Statement of 19 June, Los Cabos
Dear Mr Witty,

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Mr Andrew Witty
President
EFPIA Brussels Office
Leopold Plaza Building
Rue du Trône 108
B-1050 Brussels
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Yours sincerely,

Antonio Tajani
Karel De Gucht
John Dalli

Cc: Richard Bergström, Louis-Nicolas Fortin, Stephanie Lane

Attachment: Joint Statement of 19 June, Los Cabos
Dear Mrs Eggertsdottir,

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Mrs Edda Eggertsdottir
President
EUROPEAN GENERIC MEDICINES ASSOCIATION- EGA
Rue d'Arlon, 50
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium
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In addition to a public consultation launched by the Directorate General TRADE on 28 June, inviting written submissions by the end of September, your organisation has recently been invited to meet with senior management in the Directorates General for Trade, Enterprise and Industry and Health and Consumer Policy, to examine those issues. We count on your active participation in this process as well as that of your members.

We are fully aware of the challenges posed by the existing unnecessary divergences between the EU and the US in quite a number of areas of regulatory activity and know well, from the intensive work carried out in this area over the last years, the efforts required from all involved to achieve results. However, we are convinced that the support and determination of the EU and US leaders now opens, as compared to prior transatlantic initiatives, a unique window of opportunity to make progress. We are therefore confident that our joint cooperation and commitment will help achieve concrete progress and make a real difference.

Yours sincerely,

[Signatures]

Antonio TAJANI
Karel DE GUCHT
John DALLI

Cc: Greg Perry, Beata Stepniewska, Suzette Kox, Ilina Markova

Attachment: Joint Statement of 19 June, Los Cabos
Dear Mr Lepercq,

Through their joint statement of 19 June in Los Cabos welcoming the interim report of the EU-US High Level Working Group (HLWG), Presidents Obama, Barroso and Van Rompuy have signalled their support for a bold initiative to expand trade and investment between the EU and the US, that could make a significant contribution to our strategy to strengthen growth and create jobs. It would consist of an ambitious and comprehensive market opening arrangement for agricultural and manufactured goods, services and investment, which among other objectives would promote compatible regulatory approaches and tackle unnecessary behind-the-border non-tariff barriers.

They have urged the HLWG to complete its work as quickly as possible and to consult with public and private stakeholders, in order to make a recommendation to the EU and US leaders later this year as to possible trade negotiations.

The Commission is now stepping up its preparatory work on the contents of such an initiative. Among the issues that need to be examined between now and the completion of the final HLWG report, the EU and US leaders have asked the HLWG to identify ways to promote compatible regulatory approaches and tackle behind-the-border barriers. To do so, the input of stakeholders and especially of industry is essential. We will therefore welcome the active involvement of your organisation in this important preparatory work. We need to better assess the main obstacles of a regulatory nature faced by your industry in the US that unnecessarily impede trade, their relative importance and priority and the benefits of addressing them, and to devise the most realistic means to address these in a mutually acceptable manner and within a reasonable timeframe.

Mr Patrick Lepercq
President
ETRMA-European Tyre & Rubber Manufacturers’ Association
Avenue des Arts 2, box 12
B-1210 Brussels
This work should contribute to reducing the cost of doing business across the Atlantic and enhance in the future the compatibility of regulatory approaches, therefore bringing about significant benefits to our economies. To the greatest extent possible, concrete proposals for greater regulatory compatibility could be presented jointly by industry across the Atlantic, thereby enhancing the prospects of such proposals being actively considered by both EU and US regulators. Greater regulatory compatibility should be pursued and achieved whilst preserving the high levels of protection of health, safety, consumers and the environment enshrined in EU and US regulations.

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Yours sincerely,

Antonio TAJANI

Karel DE GUCHT

Cc: Fazilet Cinaralp

Attachment: Joint Statement of 19 June, Los Cabos
Dear Mr Lebeau,

Through their joint statement of 19 June in Los Cabos welcoming the interim report of the EU-US High Level Working Group (HLWG), Presidents Obama, Barroso and Van Rompuy have signalled their support for a bold initiative to expand trade and investment between the EU and the US, that could make a significant contribution to our strategy to strengthen growth and create jobs. It would consist of an ambitious and comprehensive market opening arrangement for agricultural and manufactured goods, services and investment, which among other objectives would promote compatible regulatory approaches and tackle unnecessary behind-the-border non-tariff barriers.

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Mr Guy Lebeau
President
Eucomed - The European Medical Technology Industry Association
Place des Maïeurs 2
B - 1150 Brussels
BELGIUM
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Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
Antonio Tajani

[Signature]
Karel DE GUCHT

Cc: Roland Pfleger, Serge Bernasconi, John Brennan

Attachment: Joint Statement of 19 June, Los Cabos
Dear Mr Donohue,

Through their joint statement of 19 June in Los Cabos welcoming the interim report of the EU-US High Level Working Group (HLWG), Presidents Obama, Barroso and Van Rompuy have signalled their support for a bold initiative to expand trade and investment between the EU and the US, that could make a significant contribution to our strategy to strengthen growth and create jobs. It would consist of an ambitious and comprehensive market opening arrangement for agricultural and manufactured goods, services and investment, which among other objectives would promote compatible regulatory approaches and tackle unnecessary behind-the-border non-tariff barriers.

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Mr Thomas J. Donohue  
President and CEO  
US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
Belgium Office  
Rond Point Schuman 6/5  
1040 Brussels-Belgium
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Yours sincerely,

[Signatures]
Antonio Tajani
Karel De Gucht
John Dalli

Cc: Peter Rashish, Myron Brillant, Peter Chase

Attachment: Joint Statement of 19 June, Los Cabos
Dear Mr Dick,

Through their joint statement of 19 June in Los Cabos welcoming the interim report of the EU-US High Level Working Group (HLWG), Presidents Obama, Barroso and Van Rompuy have signalled their support for a bold initiative to expand trade and investment between the EU and the US, that could make a significant contribution to our strategy to strengthen growth and create jobs. It would consist of an ambitious and comprehensive market opening arrangement for agricultural and manufactured goods, services and investment, which among other objectives would promote compatible regulatory approaches and tackle unnecessary behind-the-border non-tariff barriers.

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Mr Richard Dick
President
ORGALIME
Diamant Building,
Boulevard Auguste Reyers, 80
1030 Brussels
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Yours sincerely,

[Signatures]

Antonio Tajani

Karel DE GUCHT

Cc: Adrian Harris, Zeljko Pazin

Attachment: Joint Statement of 19 June, Los Cabos
Dear Mr Eder,

Through their joint statement of 19 June in Los Cabos welcoming the interim report of the EU-US High Level Working Group (HLWG), Presidents Obama, Barroso and Van Rompuy have signalled their support for a bold initiative to expand trade and investment between the EU and the US, that could make a significant contribution to our strategy to strengthen growth and create jobs. It would consist of an ambitious and comprehensive market opening arrangement for agricultural and manufactured goods, services and investment, which among other objectives would promote compatible regulatory approaches and tackle unnecessary behind-the-border non-tariff barriers.

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Mr Wolfgang Eder  
President  
EUROFER  
Avenue Ariane, 5  
Building "Intégrale" E3 (3rd floor)  
B-1200 Brussels
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Antonio TAJANI

Karel DE GUCHT

Cc: Gordon Moffat

Attachment: Joint Statement of 19 June, Los Cabos
Dear Mr Bell,

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Mr Oliver Bell
President
Eurometaux-European Association of Metals
Avenue de Broqueville 12
1150, Brussels, Belgium
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Yours sincerely,

[Signatures]

Antonio Tajani

Karel DE GUCHT

Cc: Guy Thiran

Attachment: Joint Statement of 19 June, Los Cabos
Dear Mr Paccanelli,

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Mr Alberto Paccanelli
President
European Apparel and Textile Confederation aisbl
24, rue Montoyer, Bte. 10
B-1000 Brussels
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Antonio TAJANI
Karel DE GUCHT
John DALLI

Cc: Francesco Marchi, Luisa Santos

Attachment: Joint Statement of 19 June, Los Cabos