



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Trade

Directorate E - Neighbouring countries, USA and Canada
USA and Canada

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NOTE TO THE FILE

Subject: EU-US: Significant changes in the Trans-Atlantic Business Council (TABC)

On 30 January Ignacio Garcia Bercero (accompanied by) met with outgoing CEO of TABC Tim Bennett who is retiring at the end of February. Mr. Bennet informed that it has finally been decided to end the current TABD structure with two offices in DC and Brussels and with dedicated staff (about 8 in total).

Instead TABC is going to operate with a much lighter 'association' structure managed by the international law firm K&L Gates¹.

Practically speaking this change means that the organisation will no longer have *any* dedicated staff and will lose in-house technical know-how to push certain issues. TABC was for example instrumental in pushing sectoral initiatives when the TEC was set up in 2005, and provided solid inputs and private sector support before TTIP was launched in 2013.

TABC will henceforth operate more as a 'networking platform', where technical inputs will be sought from experts on a case by case basis. In a nutshell it is therefore likely that TABC – the last remaining fully dedicated EU-US business organisation² - will further evolve into a more reactive rather than initiating association.

Cc: J.L. Demarty, J. Korte, I. Garcia Bercero, ,
, Trade E1 (TRADE) (EU DEL. Washington)

¹ Former Congressman Bart Gordon will lead from the DC office of K&L, while former MEP Ignaci Guarndans will do the same from Brussels. Both were present at the meeting.

² Amcham represents only the interests of US companies in Europe