

58th Meeting of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue
European Parliament - United States Congress
Interparliamentary Meeting
Dublin, 3-6 April 2004

Leadership Statement

The transatlantic market is the most important bilateral relationship in the global arena. Growth in our region is important to our citizens and to a dynamic world economy that will facilitate the launch of the Doha Development Agenda.

We believe it is essential to build on this relationship by creating a deeper and broader transatlantic market. We affirm that we can do so while at the same time reinforcing the multilateral trading system.

To this end, we challenge all those who participate in the policy-setting process in our respective jurisdictions to adopt a goal of a barrier-free transatlantic market by 2015. In particular, we feel it is essential, in the first phases, to attain regulatory convergence in financial services, manufacturing standards, competition policy, electronic commerce, and aviation.

To help achieve this convergence and minimize disputes, we need to confront the real differences between our systems, choose best practices, make our regulatory systems more transparent to the public, and cause our regulatory bodies to cooperate. Continuing legislative involvement and oversight will be essential to the success of this effort.

Those participating in the EU-US Summit of June 2004 should make known to the public the benefits of a barrier-free market and should commit themselves to establishing an action plan to achieve expeditiously the aims we have set out above.

Jo Ann Davis
Chairwoman
United States Delegation

Jim Nicholson
Chairman
European Parliament Delegation

Henry Hyde
Chairman
Committee on International
Relations

Bastiaan Belder
Vice Chairman
European Parliament Delegation

Joseph Crowley
Co-Chairman
United States Delegation

Renzo Imbeni
Vice-President
European Parliament