

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0040/03

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Elmar Brok, on behalf of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy  
to the Commission

Subject: A renewed transatlantic partnership for the third millennium

At a time of mounting tensions between the United States and the European Union, and in the aftermath of the war in Iraq:

1. What is the Commission's view on the best way for the relaunching of an in-depth dialogue with the United States?
2. What steps does the Commission propose to bring the Atlantic zone business and market conditions closer and in which areas? Can the Commission develop concrete proposals for a closer transatlantic economic relationship within a framework consistent with the European model? How does the Commission envisage in particular fostering a closer economic relationship given the existence of different models such as NAFTA/FTAA and the EU?
3. Moreover, as a long term objective, is the Commission in favour of a continuous liberalisation initiative designed to accelerate the implementation of WTO rulings by the USA and the EU which, in the context of a renewed partnership, could lead to the establishment of a free trade area guaranteeing the free movement of goods, capital, services and persons?
4. What are the Commission's priorities for acting together in order to develop solutions to global challenges – e.g. the environment, justice, migration or social and ethnic conflicts? What kind of joint initiative does the Commission envisage on the reform of the operating process of the WTO? Would such an initiative be tabled in Cancun?
5. What is the Commission's view on the possibility of exploring cooperation in space policy, such as reinforcement of manned space travel?
6. Does the Commission agree on the necessity of jointly re-assessing EU and US development aid and humanitarian assistance strategies and instruments (including Bretton Woods institutions) focusing in particular on performance and complementarity? Could the Commission come up with a proposal for a long-term strategy in this field?
7. Could the Commission provide information on the current state of the in-depth report on future transatlantic relations requested by Parliament on its resolution of 15 May 2002, due to be submitted no later than 30 September 2002?

Tabled: 13.05.2003

Forwarded: 15.05.2003

Deadline for reply: 22.05.2003