

Brussels, 10 May 2012

Antonio Tajani: Fostering industrial co-operation with the United States

European Commission Vice President Antonio Tajani, together with European CEOs from all main industrial sectors, will visit the US from 10 to 12 May. As part of the new series of "Missions for Growth", the aim of the visit is to foster industrial cooperation and business relations with the US to help the European and American economies to foster growth and job creation. The EU delegation consists of representatives of industrial sector associations and horizontal business associations incorporating each a large number of industry members (see list below). Before leaving Brussels Vice President Antonio Tajani, responsible for Industry and Enterprises, said: "Our objective is to underline the importance of our industrial and economic relations with the United States. We strongly believe that reinforcing the transatlantic economy will be crucial in the coming years to foster innovation, growth and employment, in particular as the transatlantic relationship has an enormous potential which is not yet fully exploited."

The mission to the United States will pursue three main objectives:

- Allow for concrete discussions with political leaders on EU-U.S. industrial cooperation to **spur economic growth**;
- **Support European companies**, in particular SMEs, in developing business with the United States;
- Ensure the contribution and support of the EU business community to recent EU-U.S. **initiatives in favour of a transatlantic market** supporting jobs and growth.

The visit will focus on high-level political meetings in Washington, with additional business-to-business contacts in New York City (for details, see below). Discussions will address ways to create a more favourable environment to support innovation, growth and jobs on both sides of the Atlantic. Vice-President Tajani is working intensively for the [internationalisation of European enterprises](#). In this context, he intends to give a strong political signal of the importance the Commission attaches to industrial and economic relations between the EU and the US.

EU US Key trade data at a glance:

- 10,9% of EU imports come from the US, and 17,0 % of EU exports go there.
- The US buys 16,9 % of their total imports from the EU, and exports 19,2 %.
- EU and US are mutually their biggest trading partners, with 13,8 % of total EU trade being done with the US (2011), and 17,8 % of total US trade being done with the EU (2010).

Improving industrial cooperation to the advantage of the EU and the US

With mutual investment stocks of €1.89 trillion, and trade in goods and services worth €700 billion annually, **industrial cooperation** between the U.S. and Europe is well established and much more developed than with any other country in the world. During his visit VP Tajani will underline the importance to **increase regulatory convergence**, in particular in new or unregulated areas as it is crucial to avoid divergences in regulations and standards which have detrimental effects on business and trade development. Regulatory cooperation is an important tool to helping dismantle existing regulatory barriers and prevent new ones from emerging. This activity is on-going and is carried out by the High Level Regulatory Cooperation Forum.ⁱ

The Commission is aware of the efforts deployed by the US Administration to **spur industrial growth** and is very interested in exchanging information and experiences about these initiatives. The Commission also sees a common challenge to **create favourable conditions for innovation, investment and exports** by ensuring that the potential gains from doing business and exploring export markets are larger than the costs and risks. This is particularly true for small and medium-sized enterprises.

More specifically, the visit will aim to strengthen cooperation with the US in key areas of the VP's portfolio, including SMEs, industrial innovation, tourism and space. For example, the development of tourism is a sector with huge potential for growth and employment on both sides of the Atlantic.

VP Tajani continued: *"A more closely integrated transatlantic market place will decrease costs and create new opportunities for businesses and consumers. I look forward to our continued cooperation to create mutually appropriate conditions for growth and business development across the Atlantic."*

Details of the Visit

Vice President Tajani will have talks with: Michael Froman, Deputy Assistant to the US President & Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economic Affairs, White House; Robert Hormats, Undersecretary of State for Economic Affairs, US Department of State; and with Deputy Secretary of Commerce Rebecca Blank, US Department of Commerce.

On Thursday Vice President Tajani will speak on the *"Competitiveness of the EU-US manufacturing industry and transatlantic cooperation for sustainable growth"* at a breakfast event organised by the European Institute in the context of the "Europe Week". He will also participate in a Roundtable with US companies hosted by the US Chamber of Commerce and the Transatlantic Business Dialogue (TABD) on *Priorities for an integrated transatlantic market place – Regulatory convergence, trade and investment.*

Industry representatives accompanying VP Tajani

Ms. Gunilla Almgren, President European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises – UEAPME

Mr. Alessandro Barberis, President European Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry – Eurochambres

Mr. Jesús Serafín Pérez-Díaz, President Food Drink Europe

Mr. James Harton, CEO Rhodia, European Chemical Industry Council – CEFIC

Mr. Peter Voser, CEO Shell European Roundtable of Industrialists – ERT

Mr. Fabio Franchina, President, and Mr. Bertil Heerink, Director General Cosmetics Europe

Mr. Karsten Langer, Chairman, and Ms. Dörte Höppner, Secretary General European Private Equity and Venture Capital Association – EVCA

Mr. Alejandro Bataller, Board Member European Cultural and Creative Industries Alliances – ECCIA

Mr. Hansjuerg Mahler, President Association of European manufacturers and installers of fire and security systems – Euralarm

Mr. Adrian Harris, Director General European Engineering Industries Association – Orgalime

Mr. Marko Gospodjinacki, EREC Board member and ESHA President European Renewable Energy Council (EREC) and European Small Hydropower Association (ESHA)

Mr. Maciej Witucki, Vice President Polish Confederation of Private Employers Lewiatan

Mr. Jens Klaskov, CEO Danish Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Sergio Einaudi, Vice President, Tenaris

EU- US Economic and trade relations at a glance

The European Union and the United States have the largest bilateral trade relationship in the world. The EU and the US economies account together for about half the entire world GDP and for nearly a third of world trade flows.

For **goods and services**, we are mutually our biggest trading partners, with 14% of total EU trade being done with the US, and 18 % of total US trade being done with the EU. This amounts to a **total annual trade of goods and services of €670 billion in 2010, or €1.8 billion per day.**

This can also be illustrated with approximately **15 million jobs** linked to the transatlantic economy. It is estimated that a third of the trade across the Atlantic actually consists of intra-company transfers.

The transatlantic relationship also defines the shape of the global economy as a whole as either the EU or the US is also the largest trade and investment partner for almost all other countries in the global economy.

The EU and the US enjoy the most integrated economic relationship in the world, illustrated by unrivalled levels of mutual **investment** stocks, **reaching over €2.4 trillion**. Total US investment in the EU is three times higher than in all of Asia and EU investment in the US is around eight times the amount of EU investment in India and China together. Investments are thus the **real driver of the transatlantic relationship, contributing to growth and jobs on both sides of the Atlantic**.

Population, size and GDP

Main data:

- The EU (4 million m2) has less than half the US (9.5 million m2) surface, but a more than 50% higher **population** (500 million).
- US **GDP per capita** (47,000 USD) is roughly 50% higher than the EU's (2010).
- **Inflation** (in 2010, 1.6% US, 2.1% EU) and **unemployment** (8.5% US, 9.9% EU in December 2011) figures are of the same magnitude.
- In percentage of GDP, US **deficit** (8.9% of GDP in 2010) is 35% higher than the EU's, (6.6% in 2010) and debt 15 percentage point (US 94% of GDP, EU 80%).
- The **GDP composition** by sector (relative importance of industry/agriculture/service) is very similar with around $\frac{3}{4}$ being services and less than 2% agriculture.

	US	EU
Surface (km2)	9.8 million	4.3 million
Population	313 million	502.5 million (Jan 2011)
GDP in USD	15,1 trillion (2011)	17,6 trillion (2011)
GDP per capita in USD	48,440 (2011)	34,985 (2011)
GDP growth in USD	1,7 % (2011)	1,5 % (2011)
Inflation	3 % (2010)	3,1% (2011)
Unemployment	8,3 % (Feb 2012)	10,2 % (Feb 2012)
Deficit in USD	1.3 trillion = 9% of GDP (2011)	1.07 trillion = 6.6% of GDP (2010)
Debt in USD	14.8 trillion = 99% of GDP (2011)	13.0 trillion = 80% of GDP (2010)

GDP – composition by sector (2010)

	US	EU
Industry	20,4 % (2010)	25,5 % (2010)
Agriculture	1,2 % (2010)	1,5 % (2010)
Services	78,4 % (2010)	72,9 % (2010)

Trade

Trade in goods:

EU good exports to the US in 2011:	€260.6 billion
EU goods imports from the US in 2011:	€184.1 billion

Trade in commercial services:

EU commercial services exports to the US in 2010:	€127.1 billion
EU commercial services imports from the US in 2010:	€130.5 billion

Trade in goods + services (2010):

Total EU goods + com. services exports to the US:	€369.4 billion
Total EU goods + com. services imports from the US:	€300.9 billion
Total EU-US trade in goods + com. services:	€670.3 billion
Total trade per day:	€1.84 billion

Foreign Direct Investment:

Flows (2010)

EU investment flows to the US:	€20.9 billion
US investment flows to the EU:	€44.9 billion

Stocks (2010)

EU outward stock:	€1.19 trillion
EU inward stocks:	€1.20 trillion

Main traded goods:

EU exports: Machinery & transport equipment; chemicals; manufactured articles; mineral fuels; beverages & tobacco

EU imports: Machinery & transport equipment; chemicals; manufactured articles; commodities & transactions; mineral fuels

Rankings

Main import partners:

For EU (2011), US N° 3 with	10,9 % (China N° 1 with 17,3%)
For US (2010), EU N° 2 with	16,9 % (China N°1 with 19,9%)

Main export partners:

For EU (2011), US N° 1 with	17,0 % (China N° 2 with 8,9 %)
For US (2010), EU N° 2 with	19,2 % (Canada N° 1 with 19,9 %)

Main overall trade partners:

For EU (2011), US N° 1 with	13,8 % (China N° 2 with 13,3 %)
For US (2010), EU N°1 with	17,8 % (Canada N° 2 with 16,6 %)

Comparative EU and US trade relations with major partners (China, Japan, Russia)

<i>Rounded figures</i>	EU-US in € billion		With China	With Russia	With Japan
Total trade (goods + com. services, 2010)	670	EU (€billion)	434	283	144
		US (goods only) (€ billion)	359	25	139
Investment stocks (2010)	2396	EU (€ billion)	82	162	223
		US (€ billion*)	48	11	277

* converted from USD figures at end of 2010 rate

ⁱ Since its inception in 2005, the High Level Regulatory Cooperation Forum has met regularly to focus on key regulatory issues of common interest and to facilitate the exchange of best regulatory practice across sectors. The “Forum” provides a setting for senior officials from all areas of the government to come together to discuss regulatory policy matters of mutual interest.

The Forum aims to improve the quality of regulation on both sides, through sharing regulatory best practices such as risk and impact assessments, and techniques related to reducing the costs to business and consumers that arise from unnecessary differences in regulatory requirements.

[For more information](#)