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Delegations will find attached the partially declassified version of the above-mentioned document.



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NOTE

From : General Secretariat
To : Members of the Transatlantic Relations Working Group
Subject : EU – US Summit 2004 Outlook - Overview of EU-side Approach

This background paper is prepared jointly by the Presidency and Commission to assist discussion on Summit Preparation at COTRA on 29 April. It sets out the context and timeline for the Summit, explores possible agenda items and outcomes and in particular sets out possible EU perspectives. Further discussions on Summit preparation will take place in the coming period based on discussions and developments between EU and US interlocutors.

1. Context

The EU-US Summit will take place in Ireland on 25/26 June.

The agenda will cover the usual breadth of regional and security issues as well as trade and economic questions. This note is an attempt to identify the relevant topics of interest with a view to ensure the necessary focus in the run-up to the meeting.

Twelve months ago the Summit took place against the backdrop of a perceived all-time low in transatlantic relations following the war in Iraq. The Summit at that time worked to demonstrate that, notwithstanding differences, cooperation continued in a number of areas - political, economic and security – as was demonstrated by the texts on specific issues agreed at the 2003 Summit.

Since last year there have been a number of important developments impacting on the relationship. This will be the first summit of the enlarged EU with the US. The probable agreement on the constitutional treaty, at the European Council of 17-18 June, will give fresh impetus and visibility to the EU foreign policy. The EU has agreed important policies relating to the European Security Strategy and the fight against terrorism. It also adopted Declaration on Transatlantic Relations in December 2003. In the past year there has been continuing good cooperation with the US on regional, security and economic issues.

2. Timeline to Summit

A first discussion will take place at COTRA on 29 April, covering the broad lines, issues, objectives and strategies for the Summit.

Prospects for the main agenda items will be discussed at the EU-US Task Force on 6 May. A debriefing and further discussion will take place at COTRA on 13 May.

In parallel COREPER will have an orientation debate on the broad political, security and economic backdrop to the Summit on 13 May with a view to discussion in Council on 17 May.

Discussion of possible texts, agendas and outcomes will be pursued in COTRA on 27 May and 10 and 22 June.

A further Task Force will take place on 27 May and an SLG on 3 June, and there will be further meetings as appropriate in the run up to the Summit.

An important dimension also is the G8 Summit on 8-10 June and the NATO Summit on 28/29 June.

3. Agenda Items/Key Issues/Outcomes

The following are likely agenda items, including a commentary as to whether they could result in a joint outcome (e.g. statement, agreed text or agreed press line) or become a concrete 'deliverable'.

- **Iraq**

NOT DECLASSIFIED

- **Greater Middle East (incl. Middle East Process)**

NOT DECLASSIFIED

NOT DECLASSIFIED

- **Counter-Terrorism**

NOT DECLASSIFIED

- **Proliferation**

The proliferation of WMD has been defined in the ESS as another major threat to the security of Europe and the world. Last year's US-EU summit adopted a major joint statement on non-proliferation. There has as a result of this statement been intense co-operation between the two sides.

NOT DECLASSIFIED

- **HIV/Aids and Other Communicable Diseases**

Both the EU and US are major contributors to the fight against the spread of HIV/Aids. Greater cooperation whether at the at the global level or on the ground, including through the involvement of the private sector, will help to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of measures aimed at eliminating the major communicable diseases. A joint statement seeking practical ways to improve cooperation is likely.

- **Economic Partnership**

NOT DECLASSIFIED

- **Trade and Economic Issues**

It is also likely that specific trade and economic issues (e.g. WTO Compliance, DDA, PEA) will feature on the agenda.

- **Galileo**

The agreement on the cooperation between the GPS and Galileo satellite-navigation systems was reached on substance at the end of February. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

- **PNR**

Since February 2003, the issue of PNR has made the headlines. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

- **Other Possible Agenda Items**

At the time of writing (27 April) the following issues might feature as outcomes or discussion items at the Summit: Iran; **NOT DECLASSIFIED**; Afghanistan; China (arms embargo); EU-US Air Transport Agreement; ITER; Food Safety Dialogue; Regulatory Cooperation Roadmap.

4. Role for Civil Society Dialogues

The business (TABD) and consumer (TACD) transatlantic, civil-society dialogues have always been keen to have a role at and/or around the summit. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

NOT DECLASSIFIED

5. Communication Strategy

As mentioned earlier, the context surrounding this Summit is quite different from last year's and is a far more promising one. At the same time, the year 2004 is a transition year in many respects both in Washington and Brussels. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

This partnership remains the indispensable one not only for the transatlantic community but for the world. It is based on the two pillars of prosperity and security. The Summit will register concrete steps in the strengthening of the transatlantic economic partnership as well as in the enhancement of the EU-US security dialogue. The themes, whether in the form of statements, fact-sheets or agreed press lines, should focus on the economy and on security in the broader sense (fight against terrorism, non-proliferation, co-operation in the area of HIV-AIDS). Several fact sheets would be envisaged: economy, security, 'the enlarged EU and the US', Wider Middle East, Galileo.