



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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

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**ANNEX**

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**Brussels, 10 May 2004**

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EXT 1 (17.01.2012)**

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**NOTE**

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from :            Presidency  
to :                Coreper

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Subject :        **EU-US Summit, Dublin, 26 June 2004**  
                  - **Update on preparation**

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**“The EU remains fully committed to a constructive, balanced and forward looking partnership with our transatlantic partners.....Acting together, the EU and its transatlantic partners can be a formidable force for good in the world.”**

*- EU Transatlantic Declaration December 2003*

**1. Purpose of Discussion**

The annual EU-US Summit will take place in Ireland on 25/26 January 2004.

Almost fifteen years ago, a Transatlantic Declaration<sup>1</sup> laid as much emphasis on the reunification of Europe as it did in addressing other global problems. Now, in the wake of enlargement to 25, as well as extensive political and economic integration – the adoption of common defence, security and counter-terrorism strategies and the introduction of the Euro - the EU is a much stronger player in international relations and a serious partner with the US in responding to global challenges.

The purpose of this paper is to examine the EU's approach to its relations with the world's major power in addressing bilateral and global issues. The approach will guide our preparation for the forthcoming Summit and afterwards.

## 2. Introduction

As ever the world faces many challenges and conflicts. The threat that is international terrorism has already been appallingly demonstrated in many different parts of the globe. That threat is compounded by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Political instability in the Middle East, including the Israeli-Palestine conflict and the war in Iraq, at times seems insoluble. Poverty and under-development in many countries has led to human misery and the encouragement of illegal and inhumane activities. Large numbers have been ravaged by the effects of disease, notably HIV/Aids. Pursuing economic growth, development and jobs, including competition from emerging economies like China, also poses challenges.

No single State or group of States can solve these problems on their own – they require the combined and sustained cooperation of the international community.

The EU, as a major world influence, has the obligation, and the potential, to play its part in addressing these problems - in its own right, with major partners such as the US and as a strong advocate of multilateral effort.

2003 was a difficult year in transatlantic relations. Over the past months, both sides have worked hard to put the past behind us. **NOT DECLASSIFIED** The forthcoming Summit provides a good opportunity to demonstrate the breadth and depth of EU-US co-operation and to send a strong signal of our willingness to move forward as partners and allies.

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<sup>1</sup> 22 November 1990

### 3. **The EU-US Agenda**

EU-US relations rests on three pillars - political, security and economic/development, encompassing a broad agenda of specific issues.

#### **I. Political/Regional Issues:**

**NOT DECLASSIFIED**

## **II. Security Issues:**

The people living and working in Europe and America have the right to do so secure from threat of terrorism. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

## **III. Economic and Development Cooperation:**

Over 13 million jobs depend on EU and US companies investing in each others' economies. Many more jobs are created through trade. We both want to see the best quality jobs continue to be created in Europe and America.

The Transatlantic Market is well established and there is a lot of ongoing effort to ensure that barriers to trade and investment are minimised. 2005 will be the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the New Transatlantic Agenda. The 'Positive Economic Agenda' launched in 2002 needs to be replenished with other positive elements given its limited focus on trade disputes and regulation. A number of voices have called for re-vamping the transatlantic economic partnership. An immediate objective is to investigate what remaining barriers to trade and investment should be tackled as a priority.

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Internationally, we must work to ensure that the DDA delivers on the development needs of so many countries. We must not be open to accusation that this is solely for the benefit of the EU and US economies but to enhance global trade and jobs also. And as in the case of the FSC dispute, it behoves the EU and US to respect international trade rules and otherwise to seek to minimise the impact of bilateral trade disputes.

HIV/Aids Malaria and TB are major killers in particular regions. The EU and US are the main contributors to the fight against the spread of HIV/Aids and other epidemic diseases.

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#### 4. EU Perspectives for the Summit

This Summit takes place at a time when a more confident, and enlarged, European Union is re-evaluating its partnership with America. It takes place against a background where the US has come to see the benefits of operating in partnership and multilaterally. And it takes place in the lead up to political and administrative changes in both places. The main theme to come from the Summit could therefore be: ‘a reunited Europe, a revitalized partnership’.

While there is a good case for the EU and US to review their relationship at the strategic level, the focus during this semester has been to build on the improvement in relations through practical and pragmatic cooperation and consultation on issues of shared interest and concern.

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Particular orientations for the Summit should be:

- The Summit should be used to send out a positive message that the perceived problems of the past are behind us. It should demonstrate that a more enlightened period of dialogue and cooperation is ahead, for which the EU can claim a good deal of credit.

- The Summit should demonstrate the developing foreign policy role of the EU in addressing problem areas such as Iraq, Middle East Peace Process, Terrorism, *non-proliferation* and HIV/Aids. As such it is a demonstration of the growing importance of the EU within the machinery of transatlantic dialogue.
  - The Summit should not only be seen as an end in itself, but be used to convey EU thinking more strategically. The EU should use the Summit to demonstrate its strong support for proactive multilateral solutions to global and regional challenges and for pursuing long-term strategies in association with the peoples most concerned.
  - The key message is that the EU and US, working in cooperation, will have a greater and sustained effect and will minimise differences which can hinder achievement of mutual objectives. Over a very broad agenda, the Summit should aim to play down bilateral differences and be seen to encourage more bilateral and multilateral cooperation.
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