

Publication of the draft mandates for negotiations with the US is a way to start bridging the transatlantic divide

Today's publication by the European Commission of the draft mandates for trade negotiations with the United States in the area of industrial goods and conformity assessments is a welcome step in towards increasing transatlantic trade and further advance on a positive agenda between EU and US.

In this sense, for European business it is imperative that both sides follow through on the Joint Statement of President Juncker and President Trump from July last year, in order to strengthen economic cooperation among the world's most integrated economies. At the same time, the publication of the draft mandates with such an important partner as the United States, is welcome and necessary in order to ensure a high degree of transparency with regards to any upcoming negotiations.

"For us one thing has always been abundantly clear from the beginning, we want build closer ties and trade more with the United States and not less. Already today over 14 million people on both sides of the ocean depend on the transatlantic economy for their livelihoods, so only economic cooperation and not escalation can be the way forward between the European Union and the United States. Europe must be united and determined in its approach, and while tariffs remain an issue for companies, it is especially in the non-tariff area, including on the issue of conformity assessments, where facilitations can impact very positively on our companies - especially on our 20 million European SMEs", stated **Christoph Leidl**, President of EUROCHAMBRES.

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