

**PRESS RELEASE**

## **Ahead of first TEC meeting, delegation of European Chambers returns from Washington D.C.**

The first ever high level delegation of European Chambers to the United States concluded today. 16 executives from 11 European countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain and the UK) participated in the visit. They witnessed first hand the inner workings of politics and policy 'inside the Washington beltway' thanks to a tailor-made 3-days programme.

Behind its organization by EUROCHAMBRES lie the idea of facilitating a better understanding of business leaders across the Atlantic and learning the other's governing and commerce best practices in order to strengthen their economies and enhance the economic relationship.

The programme included meetings with CEOs from the U.S. Council for International Business, the Commodity Futures Trade Commission, Office of the Trade Representative, Department of State and Department of Commerce, in addition to Capitol Hill meetings and information exchange with the U.S. Chamber.

Pierre Simon, President of EUROCHAMBRES and head of the Delegation, said: *"We could not have chosen a better moment to be in Washington D.C, with the first Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC) meeting taking place here this week. We therefore brought to the U.S. some key messages on behalf of European businesses for the TEC leaders. We want them to keep a steady pace and go ahead with the regulatory cooperation reforms, IPR dialogue and economic security measures, in particular the negative consequences that the 100% container scanning U.S. regulation would have for both European and U.S. traders."*

The EU and the U.S. are each other's main trading partners, accounting for the largest bilateral trade relationship in the world. Their economies combined represent 58% of global GDP.

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*FURTHER INFORMATION: Ms Micol Martinelli, tel.: +32 2-282 08 63, [martinelli@eurochambres.eu](mailto:martinelli@eurochambres.eu)  
PRESS CONTACT: Ms Guendalina Cominotti, tel.: +32 2-282 08 66, [cominotti@eurochambres.eu](mailto:cominotti@eurochambres.eu)*

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**EUROCHAMBRES – The Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry represents over 19 million enterprises in Europe through 46 members and a European network of 2000 regional and local Chambers.**