

EUROPEAN COMMISSION DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON DC  
EU NEWS RELEASE

441.2 (103)

No. 25/02  
April 29, 2002

**EU-US SUMMIT - WASHINGTON, MAY 2, 2002**

Leaders from both sides of the Atlantic will gather at the White House on May 2 for the annual EU-US Summit where issues including the Middle East, Afghanistan, counter-terrorism cooperation, and EU-US trade relations will be discussed.

Leading the EU side at the May 2 summit are European Commission President Romano Prodi and Prime Minister José María Aznar of Spain, as President-in-office of the European Council. They are accompanied by External Relations Commissioner Chris Patten, Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy, the EU High Representative for CFSP Javier Solana, and the Spanish Foreign Minister and President-in-office of the Council, Josep Piqué.

President Bush will be accompanied by a number of top US Administration officials: Secretary of State Colin Powell, Secretary of the Treasury Paul O'Neill, Attorney General John Ashcroft, Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans, Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman, US Trade Representative Bob Zoellick, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card. This is the second formal EU-US summit meeting for President George W. Bush, but his third with the EU leadership, taking into account a special White House meeting last September in the wake of the September 11 attacks. The EU-US summits have been in place since 1990.

The summit agenda covers: the fight against terrorism (law enforcement cooperation, terrorist financing and non proliferation); regional issues (Middle East, Western Balkans, Russia, Afghanistan); and economic, trade and development issues, (positive trade agenda, trade disputes and sustainable development)

**Post-Summit Media Availability on May 2:**

The summit starts at 10:35 a.m. with an Oval Office meeting among the three principals (President Bush, President Prodi, Prime Minister Aznar). A plenary session will follow.

**At 1.20 p.m., President Bush with Prime Minister Aznar and President Prodi will give a joint press conference from at the White House. A White House press pass or appropriate accreditation is necessary to attend.**

**President Prodi and Prime Minister Aznar will then give a joint EU press briefing at 2.15 p.m. at the St Regis Hotel (please consult wire service daybooks in case of a venue change or call Florentino Sotomayor, Press Counsellor, Embassy of Spain, 202 728 2332)**

**Commissioner Lamy will brief the press at 5.00 p.m. at the European Commission's Washington Delegation (2300 M Street NW).**

The summit will be preceded by a meeting of the Senior Level Group, composed of senior officials from both sides, and representatives of the Transatlantic Consumers Dialogue and the Transatlantic Business Dialogue.

### **Background Information on Topics to Be Discussed at Summit:**

#### **Counter-terrorism**

The EU and the US have agreed to intensify cooperation in the field of asylum, migration and frontiers. Europol has now a mandate to negotiate an agreement with the US including exchange of personal data. The EU is currently exploring how to handle data protection in the law enforcement context. In addition, EU Home and Justice Affairs Ministers endorsed on April 25 an important mandate to negotiate with the US an Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance and extradition. This will be a challenge for both sides. The next step is now for the US side to secure a mandate so that negotiations can be opened. Close cooperation against the financing of terrorism, together with other UN partners, is also essential for striking at the heart of terrorist networks. This has received a new impulse since the adoption of UN resolution 1373. All in all, the EU, the Member States and the Commission are making a formidable effort to multiply the efficiency of transatlantic joint action against terrorism.

More information and additional links about this subject are available on the internet at :

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/110901/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/110901/index.htm)

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice\\_home/index\\_fr.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/index_fr.htm)

<http://ue.eu.int/newsroom/newmain.asp?lang=1>

**Non-proliferation and disarmament** is another important subject. The EU and the US have long been closely cooperating in developing instruments in this field. Since 11 September 2001 the EU has, along with third countries, enhanced its efforts to prevent access and the possible use of weapons of mass destruction by terrorists or others; these efforts are ongoing in the export controls regimes. The EU gives the priority to multilateral non-proliferation instruments and is seeking to increase their effectiveness. To this end, US support and engagement is needed, in order to facilitate the emergence of an international consensus on binding instruments. The EU will pursue intense, at times difficult, consultations with the US on these issues that are crucial to reducing regional tensions and increasing global security.

**Sustainable development** ranks very high in the EU's list of priorities. The EU attaches great importance to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, WSSD, starting on 26 August in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Doha Ministerial declaration and the Monterrey consensus are important milestones on the way to the WSSD. The final results of the Monterrey Conference are quite encouraging and should create a new wave of optimism for Johannesburg. The EU and the US made Doha and Monterrey possible, working together and providing leadership. Our aim is to ensure now also the success of Johannesburg. The EU believes that the Program of Action and the Political Declaration (so-called "type 1 outcomes") arising from WSSD should contain clear actions. Voluntary initiatives and partnerships involving countries, international organizations, stakeholders (so-called "type 2 outcomes") are complementary and should be clearly linked to the Program of Action.

**Trade** will feature high on the agenda for debate and joint action. Even though trade conflicts regularly hit the headlines, the fact is that transatlantic commerce is huge (above €1 billion a day on average) and largely uncontroversial; trade disputes only affect a very small percentage of the total (estimates range from 0.2% to 2% of the overall flows). There is certainly some concern in Europe over certain trade policy actions on the part of the US administration. However, the EU remains committed to a constructive transatlantic partnership to tackle both our multilateral and our bilateral challenges. We are now in the process of launching a joint Positive Trade Agenda which will define a number of co-operation objectives for the year to come. These could include but not necessarily be limited to: progress on financial services and in particular: access to stock markets, the development of common approaches to organic farming standards and controls, and the definition and development of prototypes for electronic customs.

Trade and investment statistics on EU-US:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/bilateral/usa/usa.htm>

At the Summit, both sides will try to find ways to impulse progress and resolution of a number of current disputes, including

- The US **steel** measures, which are damaging, not only for European steel firms but also for American consumers, for American firms who use steel as an input and for the world trading system as a whole. The EU will continue to press the Administration to address the real problems of its steel industry - instead of just blaming imports, which are actually falling.
- The US **Foreign Sales Corporations (FSC)**, which were firmly condemned by the WTO, are another trade irritant. The Commission expects the US to bring its FSC legislation in line with its international obligations, failing which, the EC will have to do what is necessary to protect its rights.
- Also important and controversial is the US decision to ban imports of **Spanish clementines**, which was not, in our view, justified. However, good progress has been made at a technical level in order to solve the problem. The revised import protocol published on 16 April is currently under analysis. However, the Commission remains very concerned that the procedure will not be completed in time for the next shipping season which starts in October. If so, the EU will take whatever measures are necessary, including action in Geneva if required.
- As regards **beef hormones**, it is the Commission's objective to replace the present sanctions, which are damaging to trade on both sides of the Atlantic, by compensation. Technical discussions are continuing (last on 27 March) and good progress had been made up to now. At this Summit, leaders will take stock of these developments and push further towards the rapid conclusion of compensation arrangements.

**EU-US cooperation of Regional issues:**

- As regards the **Middle East**, discussions will be greatly influenced by developments in the region, in particular freedom of movement of President Arafat, a solution of the stand-off in Ramallah and Bethlehem and the start of the UN fact- finding mission to

Jenin. There will be a 'Quartet' meeting (EU, US, Russia, UN) at the State Department after the Summit.

- In the **Western Balkans**, the EU and the US are working successfully together to overcome the past crisis and to invest in the future of the Balkans to help it move closer to Europe. There is complete EU-US agreement on the need for Belgrade quickly to demonstrate practical co-operation with ICTY. This is an essential requirement to enable both EU and US to take forward closer co-operation with the Former Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), and one of the conditions for FRY to make progress in the Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP) towards an Agreement (SAA). The EU and the US are also firmly committed to multi-ethnic Kosovo in accordance with UNSCR 1244, working responsibly to develop Kosovo's European vocation. That necessitates Kosovo's leaders working responsibly in the provisional institutions of self government, to ensure the region moves steadily towards European standards, and turns its back on crime and ethnic division.
- **Russia** : the objective here is to exchange information on the respective Summits each side has with Russia in the upcoming weeks. The EU is working to ensure that the 29 May EU-Russia Summit in Moscow will be a success in terms of making progress on a number of important areas of co-operation, notably: Kaliningrad, common European economic space, fight against terrorism, energy and trade matters. The EU regularly voices its concerns on Human Rights related issues, including media freedom and Chechnya, with Russian authorities at all levels within the framework of our intense political dialogue with Russia. We expect Russia to act in full compliance with the commitments that result from membership of the Council of Europe and the OSCE. The discussions with the US will also include the question of granting Russia market economy treatment in anti-dumping procedures.
- **Afghanistan** : there is close EU-US co-operation to stabilise and reconstruct Afghanistan. The Commission will stress the urgent need for a sound macro-economic and monetary framework and for a multifaceted approach on drugs eradication. Discussions are also likely to touch upon the political situation, notably the need for ethnic balance in the administration and the transition to the Loya Jirga.

More information about these regional issues:

Middle East : [http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/mepp/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/mepp/index.htm)

Western Balkans : [http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/see/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/see/index.htm)

Russia : [http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/russia/intro/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/russia/intro/index.htm)

Afghanistan : [http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/afghanistan/intro/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/afghanistan/intro/index.htm)

**Press Contacts:**

**Willy Helin, 202/862-9530**  
**Wilfried Schneider, 202/862-9523**  
**Maeve O'Beirne, 202/862-9549**