

New Transatlantic Agenda
Senior Level Group Report to the U.S. - EU Summit
December 16, 1996

The New Transatlantic Agenda (NTA) was launched one year ago in Madrid with the goal of giving new focus and direction to U.S.-EU political and economic cooperation. Since then, we have sought to undertake a wide range of U.S.-EU joint actions in the priority areas identified by the NTA. Throughout our emphasis has been on tangible, concrete accomplishments. We have also as part of the confidence-building process of the NTA reinforced efforts to resolve bilateral trade issues and disputes. During the Irish Presidency of the European Union, we have made significant progress on key initiatives.

- **We have intensified our cooperation on our most important diplomatic objectives.** The U.S. and the EU played a vital role in supporting democratic elections, reconciliation and reconstruction in Bosnia. We have continued our assistance coordination dialogue on Central and Eastern Europe and the New Independent States (NIS). Our efforts have helped sustain the Middle East Peace Process and ensured the success of the November Cairo Economic Conference. Negotiations are close to being concluded for the EU to join the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO), underscoring a shared commitment to put our resources to work against proliferation. Similarly, we worked together in establishing the Wassenaar Arrangement. We are seeking to promote regional stability and political reconciliation in Central Africa.
- **We are moving forward on an ambitious multilateral and bilateral trade agenda.** We achieved agreement at the WTO Singapore Ministerial on an ambitious work program. Our joint efforts also resulted in an historic Information Technology Agreement which, when finalized, promises to liberalize over \$500 billion in trade annually and serves as an essential building block for the emerging global information society. In line with the strong recommendations of the Transatlantic Business Dialogue (TABD), we have agreed in principle to an agreement on mutual recognition of conformity assessment covering key sectors representing tens of billion of dollars in two-way trade and have set a deadline of January 31, 1997 to complete formal negotiations. We have also initialed a Customs Cooperation and Mutual Assistance Agreement. We have developed a transatlantic Small Business Initiative.
- **We have made significant advances in jointly addressing the new challenges of organized crime, narcotics, migration and asylum, and health.** We are working together against drug trafficking in the Caribbean, addressing law enforcement capabilities, institution-building, marine interdiction, training and information sharing. We have increased our cooperation regarding improvised weapons and money laundering, and on police/customs issues. As part of our joint efforts against illegal drug trafficking, we are close to concluding an agreement on control of chemical precursors. We have charged our negotiators with solving the remaining issues as expeditiously as possible so that the agreement can be rapidly concluded. We have opened a new dialogue

on migration and asylum issues in the context of the EU's CIREA (asylum) and CIREFI (migration) working groups. In the context of our efforts to develop an effective global early warning and response system, our health task force has agreed to enhance data exchange on communicable diseases starting with food borne diseases; identify surveillance and response capacities; review research approaches and training; and work closely with the WHO.

- **We have improved our coordination of humanitarian and development assistance** by holding a further round of high-level assistance consultations in October. By way of example, we have agreed to work together on strengthening civil society in some Latin American and South Asian countries and are supporting democracy in Nicaragua and Benin. Programs on the environment are moving forward for the Congo Basin, and we are working with the new democratic government in Haiti on judicial reform. We are helping to ensure food security in Ethiopia and Malawi and are cooperating on an immunization program in nine West African countries.
- **We are strengthening transatlantic linkages.** The TABD has continued to make important contributions to the creation of the New Transatlantic Marketplace and has strengthened the ties between our business communities. We have agreed to consider seriously the recommendations in the TABD's "Chicago Declaration." U.S. and EU officials met in November to prepare for a 1997 conference on "Bridging the Atlantic: People to People Links." We have taken the first steps with a view to exchanging foreign affairs officials.

New Priorities

Under our four objectives of the New Transatlantic Agenda, in the next six months we will:

Promoting Peace, Stability, Democracy and Development

- Cooperate on supporting the peace in Bosnia and the region and reinforce efforts to promote stability and integration in the Balkans, including through the EU regional approach, the Southeast Europe Cooperation Initiative (SECI) and the Royaumont process of Stability and Good Neighborliness in Southeast Europe.
- Strengthen civil society and promote economic development in Central and Eastern Europe; expand and deepen assistance coordination in Russia and the NIS, and reinforce efforts to build a network of regional environmental centers.
- Seek greater cooperation with Turkey to promote regional stability, closer economic ties and enhanced political dialogue, as well as encouraging the efforts of the Turkish government to strengthen democracy.

- Urge both communities on Cyprus to advance a solution within the framework of a bizonal, bicomunal federation.
- Continue close cooperation in support of the Middle East Peace Process.
- Support democracy and respect for human rights, particularly in countries where there are serious abuses.
- Work together to integrate China further into the international community.
- Cooperate closely with regard to crises in Africa, particularly in regard to supporting regional leaders and the international community to achieve a comprehensive solution to the problems of the Great Lakes region.
- Build on the positive results of the recent EU - U.S. high level consultations on development cooperation and humanitarian assistance.

Responding to Global Challenges

- Cooperate in counter narcotics efforts, with special attention to completing an agreement on chemical precursors; address the issue of synthetic drugs; strengthen the Dublin Group and broaden our cooperation on combating cybercrime. Cooperate on ways of combating pedophilia, child pornography, and international organized crime, taking into account initiatives adopted at the EU Summit in Dublin.
- Building on our existing dialogue, seek cooperation on specific steps to counter terrorism, including improved air and ground transport security, negotiation of an international convention on terrorist bombing and promoting wider adherence to existing conventions on terrorism.
- Expand joint work on key environmental concerns, especially as regards the current Berlin mandate negotiation on climate change, biodiversity and chemicals and the review of Agenda 21 at the June 1997 special session of UNGA; continue the work of transatlantic task force on communicable diseases.

Expansion of World Trade and Closer Economic Relations

- Strengthen our cooperation in the WTO through implementation of the work program adopted at the Singapore ministerial, including successful conclusion of basic telecoms and financial services agreements by the agreed dates; finalize the ITA; and consult closely on accession of new WTO members.
- Complete the OECD Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) as well as carry out the WTO work plan agreed at Singapore; finalize and implement the recommendations on Bribery in International Transactions; implement the agreements on Good Laboratory

Practices and the Mutual Acceptance of Data for chemicals; and continue to work on developing cryptography policy guidelines.

- In the context of the New Transatlantic Marketplace: follow up on the recommendations in the TABD Chicago Declaration; pursue work on the Joint Study with a view to producing substantive results, including recommendations for action by the time of the next Summit; consider inclusion of new product sectors for mutual recognition; expand cooperation on regulatory issues, with special attention to biotechnology, international harmonization in the automotive sector, and plant health; implement the Small Business Initiative; pursue joint efforts to establish a Global Navigation Satellite System; open dialogues on consumer policy and data protection; reach an agreement to enhance positive comity provisions of the 1991 U.S. - EC Agreement regarding the application of competition laws.

Building Bridges

- Encourage the active involvement of the business community in the transatlantic relationship through our continued support at the highest levels to the work of the TABD.
- Give our active support to the Transatlantic Labor Dialogue; hold a high-level workshop on employability security in May; explore ways to share experiences and policies developed to improve the standard of living of people with disabilities on both sides of the Atlantic.
- Conclude a comprehensive Science and Technology Agreement to promote closer cooperation between our scientists.
- Cooperate on preparations for the Marshall Plan 50th anniversary.
- Convene a Conference on "Bridging the Atlantic: People-to-People Links" to promote the expansion and development of new models of interaction.