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**JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON STANDARDIZATION AND CERTIFICATION.**

In the course of meetings between Secretary Mosbacher and the EC Commission, it was agreed that the United States and the European Community have the shared goal of sustaining an effective liberalization of trade and investment and that the EC's single market should contribute to this objective.

Both sides underlined their commitment to the work of the international standardization bodies and to the principle of transparency in standardization. Both agree to the continuation of the recently-initiated dialogue between European and United States standards bodies as well as between officials. It was agreed that a meeting of US and European Community officials would be held in Brussels later this summer to examine any issues of mutual concern in the area of technical regulations and related standardization activity.

They also agreed that the same principles of transparency and openness should apply in the field of testing and certification and that further clarification of the issues might be necessary. They also agreed that imported products would be afforded equal access to the conformity assessment procedures of both sides to that enjoyed by domestic producers.

They concluded that, once the Council of Ministers had confirmed the Commission's forthcoming policy statement on testing and certification, it would be appropriate to open exploratory discussions between officials of the Community and appropriate US representatives with a view to preparing negotiations for the mutual recognition of tests and certificates of conformity for products subject to regulation and to encourage the conclusion of mutual recognition arrangements between parties concerned in respect of non-regulated products. The future status of existing mutual recognition agreements would also be examined in these discussions.

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