

**EC COMMON PLATFORM
WORK PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING THE “INITIATIVE TO
ENHANCE TRANSATLANTIC ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND
GROWTH” OF THE JUNE 2005 EU-US SUMMIT**

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1. Promoting regulatory and standards cooperation

“Build effective mechanisms to promote better quality regulation, minimizing unnecessary regulatory divergences to facilitate transatlantic trade and investment and increase consumer confidence in the transatlantic market” (Text of Economic Initiative).

Objectives:

- initiating and ensuring the functioning of the High Level Regulatory Cooperation Forum, including identification of topics and a timetable for meetings;
- promoting work under the 2005 Regulatory Cooperation Roadmap (15 sector specific projects and the EC-Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Dialogue); and
- considering expanding cooperation activities to areas outside the 2005 Roadmap context and links to the Forum.

Specific Activities:

a. Initiate the work of a High-level Regulatory Cooperation Forum as described in the annex of the Economic Initiative

First step: agree on scope, participants and activities. EU ideas:

Participants: Highest level to make a real difference and to create the necessary political impetus. Relevant senior Commission and US regulators, including senior participation from US Agencies and Community Regulatory Agencies, should be actively involved in the process. Representatives of Member States will be invited to events, as appropriate.

Platform for activities related to “how we cooperate” on:

- general and cross-cutting regulatory cooperation approaches, for example: working to agree a set of best cooperative practices (“what works, what does not, what can be improved”) to be attached to the voluntary guidelines, arrangements to support the sharing of confidential information under regulatory dialogues, and identify anticipated regulatory needs;
- priority-setting: (a) through exchanges of annual Commission and US regulatory work programmes (b) through compiling work plans set autonomously (safeguarding regulatory autonomy) between European and US regulators to be submitted annually at the Summits (c) through facilitating the implementation of regulatory dialogues, and monitoring progress.

Scope: Broad EU-US regulatory cooperation agenda, including, but not limited to, activities under the 2005 Regulatory Cooperation Roadmap.

b. Regulatory Cooperation between US regulatory agencies/US government and the European Commission according to the Roadmap 2005

Dialogues with own individual work plans/agendas in 15 specific sectors:

Pharmaceuticals, Automobile Safety, Information and Communications Technology Standards in Regulations, Cosmetics, Consumer Product Safety, Consumer Protection Enforcement Cooperation, Unfair Commercial Practices, Nutritional Labelling, Food Safety, Marine Equipment, Eco-Design, Chemical, Energy Efficiency, Telecommunications and Radiocommunications Equipment, Electromagnetic Compatibility, Medical Devices.

(i) Horizontal EC-OMB dialogue: Dialogue on general regulatory policies and practices related to better regulation, such as impact assessment methodologies, risk assessment methodologies and public consultation. First meeting, 28-30 September in Washington.

(ii) EU-US Experts Exchange Programme: to promote exchanges of US and European regulatory experts and to identify resources for these.

c. Promotion of Regulatory Cooperation outside the 2005 Roadmap context

Consideration should be given to linking such activities with the Forum (opt-in), and to possibilities to expand the spectrum of cooperation activities, where appropriate.

Measuring Progress:

Regulators will autonomously set their objectives and assess progress. Work plans, jointly agreed upon by European and US regulators, will constitute priorities for regulatory cooperation to be submitted annually at the EU-US Summit.

Defining Goals for the 2006 Summit:

Based on the objectives set by the regulators, progress achieved in the High Level Regulatory Cooperation Forum, in the implementation of the 2005 Regulatory Cooperation Roadmap, and in other regulatory cooperation activities, the 2006 Summit should encourage work on the future annual priorities of EU-US regulatory cooperation.

Timelines:

Timelines to be agreed for dialogues and for the Forum

Contacts:

Lists of contacts for regulatory cooperation activities under the Forum and the 2005 Regulatory Cooperation Roadmap have been exchanged between the two sides.

2. Stimulating open and competitive capital markets

“Increase the integration and efficiency of our respective capital markets and work together to make transatlantic financial markets operate seamlessly. To achieve this, both sides will continue to use the EU-US Financial Markets Regulatory Dialogue (FMRD)” (Text of Economic Initiative)

Objectives:

Anticipate, identify and discuss financial regulatory issues, by continuing to review legislative and regulatory developments (including implementation and enforcement) and promote progress on issues of concern to each other.

Specific Activities:

The FMRD will:

- (1) anticipate, identify and discuss financial regulatory issues, by continuing to review legislative and regulatory developments (including implementation and enforcement) and
- (2) promote progress on issues of concern to each other.

Discussion will focus on:

- implementation and enforcement of financial market reforms;
- promoting convergence of accounting standards as soon as possible;
- removing barriers to further integration of clearing and settlement systems;
- encouraging competition among trade execution venues;
- promoting deeper and wider capital markets;
- making progress on deregistration reform and on insurance issues;
- making progress on adoption and implementation of Basel II; and
- taking steps to help build the transatlantic venture capital market.

Measuring Progress:

State of play of the above described activities.

Defining Goals for the 2006 Summit:

Stock taking on activities listed above.

Timelines:

Continuing exercise.

3. Transparency in the fight against malpractice

“The EU and the US share common concerns in the fight against corporate and financial fraud, money laundering, financing of terrorism, tax evasion, corruption and other malpractices. The Commission and Member States will work together with the US, as appropriate, to encourage adoption of the highest standards of transparency, exchange of information and cooperation among competent authorities” (Text of Economic Initiative).

Objectives:

Fight against corporate and financial fraud, money laundering, financing of terrorism, tax evasion, corruption and other malpractices.

Specific Activities:

Explore a EU/US structured dialogue on the basis of broad minimum objectives (for example in the areas of anti-money laundering (AML) and counter terrorist financing (TF) to promote compliance with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards; in the fight against corruption to promote standards envisaged in UN Convention against Corruption.

The aim of this dialogue will be :

- (i) In the area of the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing to promote FATF standards globally; and for tax evasion, the US, the EU and its Member States will within their respective fields of competence and according to their national positions, endeavour to support the OECD work on achieving an effective exchange of information on as wide a geographical basis as possible. The EU and US will continue through existing institutions to encourage and make progress, as appropriate, on adoption of the highest standards of transparency, exchange of information and cooperation among competent authorities.
- (ii) To agree types of measures, to achieve the above aims such as European Commission geographical development programmes;
- (iii) To agree who is best suited to deliver identified measures – Commission; US; Member States – through joint or unilateral action or possible cooperation with the existing international fora – e.g UN, G8, IMF/WB, FATF. Whoever delivers must make sure not to duplicate existing processes.
- (iv) To assess feasibility (budgetary, human resource, other) of any programmes resulting from the above

Measuring progress:

This would be based on success in identifying appropriate instruments that support existing structures and do not duplicate existing processes in order to promote best governance. A roadmap could also be set up.

Timelines:

By early 2006 – for AML/CTF, the Money Laundering Contact Committee to consider what actions to achieve these objectives are appropriate and set these out.

Mid 2007 - For AML/CTF, report on progress in FATF on any bilateral initiatives in promoting FATF standards globally.

4. Spurring innovation and the development of technology

“The EU and the US will increasingly rely on innovation and advanced technologies to stimulate economic growth and prosperity. Our aim is to increase synergies across the Atlantic as we become more knowledge-based economies” (Text of Economic Initiative).

4.1. Basic research and science policy

“Encourage collaboration on long-term basic research within the context of the U.S.-EU Science and Technology agreement, and develop exchanges of good practices concerning the policies needed to support science and innovation.”

Objectives

Co-operation in the area of basic science has several dimensions. Recognising the importance of basic research as a key driver of progress and wealth, the emergence of strategic partnerships in relevant scientific areas, and the engagement of the most excellent scientists, are and will be encouraged. Secondly, realising the role that basic science may play in addressing specific global problems, co-operations on the basis of mutual interest or benefit are encouraged. Thirdly, co-operations in science policy are desirable at various levels: foresight activities to recognise key new scientific developments and their possible impacts, exchange of experience and good practice in the management of research proposals and projects, and practical measures to facilitate actual international projects through alignments of calls for proposals and / or evaluation methodologies.

The European Commission has now adopted its proposal for the 7th Research Framework Programme. The above objectives are common to the elements of this programme.

The 7th Research Framework Programme contains a proposal to establish a European Research Council to implement the programme element dealing with basic research: the IDEAS programme. Scientific governance of the ERC will be the responsibility of a Scientific Council, consisting of 22 internationally renowned scientists. The ERC will be an autonomous organisation. It is to be expected that the Scientific Council, of which many members have spent years in US research, will take a keen interest in all above aspects of EU – US co-operation, under the umbrella Economic Initiative.

Specific Activities

- The “Perspectives in the Future of Science and Technology” (PFST) transatlantic conference series will be fully launched in 2006 (after a successful first trial in 2004). Six such conferences are foreseen for 2006-07; the first one, on “The promise and perils of engineered nanoparticles in the human body”, will take place near Washington DC on 22-24 Jan.2006.

These informal brainstorming workshops, involving top scientists and policymakers from Europe and the U.S., will promote joint assessment of emerging needs and developments in given fields of science and technology and common understanding of their societal and policy implications. They may also pave the way towards more structured collaboration among basic research institutions in the future.

- As for the prospects opened by the creation of the ERC, at the present time, with the Framework Programme in the process of institutional approval and with the members of the Scientific Council just having been selected, it is too early to propose specific activities. One may expect a review of the situation by about mid-2006.

Measuring progress

PFST targets by mid-2006: two events in the first half of 2006; a full calendar for the 2006-07 period; consolidation of funding schemes (European and American Foundations) and organizational set-up.

Defining Goals for the 2006 Summit

Stock-taking of PFST achievements to date.

Timelines

See above

4.2. Space

“Promote cooperation using civilian space-based technologies for sustainable development, science/exploration, and deepening the knowledge society” (Text of Economic Initiative).

Objectives:

Promote cooperation on the use of civilian space-based technologies for sustainable development, science/exploration, and deepening the knowledge society. The structured dialogue should, cover two crucial aspects:

- Promote co-operation in key areas such as Earth observation, satellite navigation (Galileo, GPS), electronic communication, space science and exploration, and support to developing countries to use space technologies for their social and economic development.
- In parallel, address remaining regulatory barriers to the creation of a properly functioning transatlantic market for the space industry.

In satellite navigation the goal should be to implement the interoperability and compatibility objectives set out in the EU-US Agreement on GPS-Galileo in order to facilitate the joint use and growth of Galileo and GPS services worldwide.

Specific activities:

- Briefings on space policy developments in the United States and Europe such as respective policies on utilisation of space applications, space science and exploration, as well as space transportation and the use of the International Space Station.
- General exchange of views aimed at achieving a deeper understanding of how space policy issues can be approached on both sides of the Atlantic in a complementary way identifying differences and “best practices.”
- Exchange of views on:
 - Respective participation in multilateral initiatives using space technologies to improve living conditions on Earth, like the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and the Disaster Charter.
 - Developing specific activities to promote the use of geospatial information technologies in Africa.
 - Taking measures on increasing access to information and education for third world countries.
- At a later stage, by mutual agreement, cover additional topics matching transatlantic issues in the space sector (i.e. market for launcher services, regulatory aspects,

standardisation, export regimes for high technology components as well as space and security issues).

- EU-US expert meetings on interoperability issues including verification of Galileo signal optimisation, L5, compatibility, time offset transmission, etc.

Measuring progress:

Track specific work items completed in the jointly maintained action item list.

Defining goals for the 2006 EU-US Summit:

Endorse establishment of EU-US space dialogue and aim of increasing effectiveness of multilateral programmes by identifying opportunities for reducing duplication, filling gaps and undertaking new cooperative activities. Take stock of progress.

For satellite navigation, summit specific goals are not yet identifiable due to early stage of working group activity. If progress is fast, the parties could confirm a joint standard of improved service quality for the benefit of the global user communities in transport, time synchronisation (of electricity grids, computer networks, financial transactions etc) and location based services (positioning in mobile phones, etc.).

Timelines

September 2005	preparatory meeting to determine the agenda of the first meeting;
October 2005	first discussion (Commission/ESA with DoS, NASA, NOAA) on setting objectives, participants, working method and schedule of the dialogue (video-conference);
March 2006	official opening of the dialogue;
October 2006	next EU-US Working Group on Interoperability of GPS/Galileo
End 2006	GNSS interoperability/compatibility objectives reached

4.3. Nanotechnology

“Support an international dialogue and cooperative activities for the responsible development and use of the emerging field of nanotechnology” (Text of Economic Initiative).

Objectives:

Bilateral science and technology (S&T) co-operation in materials research including nanosciences and nanotechnology is based on the 1998 EU-US S&T agreement, and an implementing arrangement concluded by the Commission with the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the area of materials sciences, including nanotechnology. Its purpose is to allow comparative opportunities for researchers from each side to participate in each other’s research programmes, exchange information, jointly organise scientific seminars, conferences, symposia and workshops, co-ordinate calls for proposals and support the training of scientists, engineers, and technical experts. A joint Steering Group meets at regular intervals to monitor and further develop co-operation. A considerable number of joint workshops and conferences have been organised in recent years.

Further areas of interest include co-operation in the field of nano-electronics, integrated micro-nano-systems, and nano-manufacturing, including contacts with the advanced research programmes supported by NSF and run in co-operation with the Semiconductor Research Corporation, as well as contacts with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the Intelligent Manufacturing Systems (IMS) programme.

Specific activities:

Experience so far has been largely positive. Several co-ordinated calls for proposals for joint research between European and American teams were launched in 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002. More than 150 proposals were received in Framework Programmes 5 and 6 up to 2004. In June 2004, a coordinated Commission/NSF call in the area of “computational materials research” was launched (budget: €6 m from the Community side and a similar amount from the NSF), requesting joint project proposals involving a balanced participation of partners from the two sides. This was the first coordinated evaluation with the NSF. 39 proposals were submitted, of which 8 proposals were jointly ranked for funding. (*N.B.* NSF has yet to resolve difficulties in providing funds up to the originally announced limit for the support of the US participants in the jointly selected project proposals).

As agreed with NSF, the Commission will prepare a further coordinated call for proposals. Possible topics include nano-materials, cyber science and biomolecular materials. The commission will explore the possibility to extend the coordinated call to US agencies other than NSF (such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), NIH, NIOH, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEH), DARPA) for a coordinated call in the domain of nano-toxicology and nano-eco-toxicology, standardisation, nano-electronics and micro-nano-systems.

On the "international dialogue...for the responsible development...of nanotechnology", the Commission intends to continue engaging its U.S. partners in an effort to promote an internationally accepted code of conduct. A transatlantic conference on "The promise and perils of engineered nanoparticles in the human body", set to take place in the U.S. in January 2006, could help advance this dialogue. (It is part of the PFST initiative: cf. "basic research").

Measuring progress:

Launch co-ordinated calls for proposals.

Defining goals for the 2006 EU-US Summit:

Take stock of progress achieved. If positive, identify further opportunities for co-ordinated calls for proposals.

Timelines:

September 2005	first contacts with other agencies in the margins of the European Conference on nano-medicine
Autumn 2005	further discussions (Commission/NSF and other agencies)
December 2006:	possible publication of the coordinated call for proposals simultaneously by Commission and US.

4.4. Higher education and vocational training

“Renew and reinforce the U.S.-EU agreement on Higher Education and Vocational Training, which includes the Fulbright/European Union program, to boost education cooperation and transatlantic exchanges between our citizens” (Text of Economic Initiative).

Objectives:

Renew and reinforce the EU-US agreement on Higher Education and Vocational Training, which include the Fulbright/European Union programme. Boost education cooperation and transatlantic exchanges between our citizens.

Specific Activities:

To conduct negotiations towards a new agreement, the core objectives and activities of which will be for the most part unchanged, i.e. structured student exchanges, curriculum development, joint study programmes and other measures aimed at enhancing mutual understanding and improving quality of human resources development in both the EU and the US, including the acquisition of skills required to pursue innovation and to meet the challenges of global knowledge based economy. However, a number of new elements are proposed, in order to respond better to the demands of the international education community:

- Clearer differentiation between higher education and vocational training in order to make it easier for Vocational Education and Training institutions to apply successfully;
- Stronger focus on student mobility (through consortia projects and joint study programmes);
- Excellence projects. Projects that prove to be of outstanding quality could receive further financial support at the end of the initial 3 or 4-year period.
- Policy-oriented measures. Support measures that go beyond the traditional student exchange and curriculum development model, in order to stimulate debate, research and activities on themes related to internationalisation of higher education;
- Schuman-Fulbright. Reinforce the current collaboration to provide more EU content and visibility. The target group of this action would be individual young professionals, mainly from outside academia and public administration (decision makers, social partner representatives, journalists, etc.);
- Substantial budget increase. The Commission is proposing to the Council that the new agreement have a budget envelope of €8 m/year on average for 2007-2013.

Measuring progress:

Obtain mandate and make progress according to timelines indicated below.

Defining Goals for the 2006 Summit:

Announce the conclusion of a new 8-year agreement (2006-2013) with a budgetary envelope 2-4 times bigger than the current one that will allow the realisation of up to 500 projects and up to 15,000 exchanges of students and young professionals (depending on budget available and results of negotiations with US).

Timelines:

December 2005	Launch negotiations
March 2006	Conclusion of the agreement.

4.5. Innovation policy and commercialisation of research output

“...develop exchanges of good practices concerning the policies needed to support science and innovation” (Text of Economic Initiative).

“Encourage the commercial application of output from research, identifying cooperative actions to improve rapid commercialization, using, inter alia, incubator environments, venture capital and technology transfer” (Text of Economic Initiative).

Objectives:

To build on cooperation between the EU and the US (COM), including the initiative launched by Vice President Verheugen and the US Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez on 20 June, in support of the part “Spurring Innovation and the Development of Technology” of the Summit Economic Initiative, with goal of promoting exchanges on innovation policy activities and on policies to encourage the commercial application of output from research, as well as on specific appropriate areas to be identified.

Specific Activities:

Involving EU expertise at various levels, identification of specific activities could include:

- *Innovation measurement*: find common tools and methodologies for measuring innovation and the performance of innovation systems, exchange information on cluster mapping in order to facilitate common and state-of-the-art analyses.
- *Policy learning*: develop knowledge of which instruments have significantly contributed to building a strong innovation system, policy trends and development of new instruments. Both sides could identify 2-3 areas to focus on.
- *Cooperation to support firms to enter the transatlantic market*: support cooperation schemes between publicly co-funded innovation agencies or other bodies (incubators, science parks)

Measuring Progress:

Stock-taking by VP Verheugen and Secretary Gutierrez is planned before the end of 2005. Regular monitoring of progress will take place.

Defining Goals for the 2006 Summit:

The projects selected should be reviewed at the 2006 Summit and future priorities endorsed.

Timelines:

September 2005	Exchanging views and identifying possible projects.
15-16 November 2005	Workshop on EU-US Innovation Performance.

4.6. e-Accessibility

“Promote E-accessibility for the disabled, elderly and other citizens with accessibility issues”
(Text of Economic Initiative).

Objectives:

Promote widespread use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) while tackling exclusion from the information society, notably amongst the elderly and people with disabilities. Objectives for EU-US co-operation should include:

- Harmonisation of accessibility requirements and standards at international level (especially for its use in public procurement), in order to create larger, attractive markets, and enable cheaper and better products while avoiding undue extra cost for business. It is important that the dialogue between the EU and US in this area is enforced.
- Facilitation of information exchange on existing legislation and its requirements as well as identification and possibly transfer of best practices.

Specific Activities:

In order to foster harmonisation of standards at international level, an EU-US “Exchange of information regarding the planned use of ICT standards in support of regulations and other public policies” has been initiated in the field of e-Accessibility policies. Recent international workshops have concluded that, from the user point of view, international co-operation would bring great benefits. At the same time, the European Commission is working on a standardisation mandate to the European Standards Organisations (ESO) to develop European requirements for accessibility to be used in public procurement in the ICT domain.

In this context, the European Commission is launching a study to obtain quantitative and qualitative data on e-Accessibility. The outcome of the study will constitute good basis for EU-US activities including: exchange of information on certification issues, common standards, research topics, and best practice on e.g. accessibility requirements in public procurement; common workshops and conferences (for instance channelling the debates through CSUN¹ and ICCHP conferences², organisations such as RESNA³, AAATE⁴) bringing together researchers, experts, users and industry.

Measuring Progress:

Maintain and intensify ongoing exchange of information and experience.

Defining goals for the 2006 Summit:

Stock-taking of results and progress of the dialogue.

Timelines

By end 2005	Standardisation mandate to ESOs.
From end 2005	Commencement of study (to run for 3 years, with measurements of e-Accessibility issues.)
27 March 2006	Workshop demonstrating conformance with eAccessibility requirements in ICT products and services.

4.7. Deployment of innovative technologies

“Encourage deployment of key innovative technologies such as broadband and radio frequency identification devices, without prejudice to consumer and data protection” (Text of Economic Initiative).

Objectives:

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) is a new and innovative technology with a profound impact on economic growth, business and some public policies. It also has societal, privacy, technological and regulatory aspects of concern to industry, the public sector and NGOs. It is important to identify and address its possible implications while ensuring that it delivers its full potential.

EU and US officials should exchange information to gain a better understanding of the key issues in the deployment and development of RFID, the nature of each other’s initiatives, assessments of impact and the possibilities for collaborative research. In addition to bilateral

¹ CSUN (California State University at Northridge) International Conference on Technology and Persons with Disabilities

² International Conference on Computers Helping People with Special Needs

³ Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America

⁴ The Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe

initiatives, this cooperation should be put in a wider international context to ensure that developments beyond EU and US boundaries do not prevent global take-up of RFID.

Specific Activities:

The Commission has established an Interservice Reflection Group on RFID. The Group has worked on a “progress report” which presents an overview of relevant RFID applications in different areas, important fields of activities addressing policy issues and a set of questions and options with respect to different applications. The report concludes with a forward-looking proposal for a road ahead in order to foster Europe’s position on RFID and presents several scenarios for follow-up. For their part, US federal departments are also extending their collaboration on RFID and have established an Intragovernmental Council.

Co-operation should seek to bring together the key players represented these two policy groups, and activities should include:

- Exchange of contact lists to facilitate further interaction;
- Joint survey of ongoing and forthcoming RFID-related activities to promote common understanding, especially of key concepts, terminology and data;
- Identify key areas where information and best practices could be exchanged. This could encompass applications, research, interoperability and standards, spectrum and privacy & security) as well as more specific topics for potential EU-US co-operation (e.g. health applications, counterfeiting of pharmaceuticals);
- A kick-off meeting to achieve some of these first goals and facilitate future work.
- US participation by videoconference on an RFID workshop on inter-operability and exploration of participation in additional RFID thematic workshops.

Measuring Progress:

Put dialogue on a secure footing. Identify and pursue priorities.

Defining goals for the 2006 Summit:

Stocktaking of progress and endorsement of further work to create a favourable environment for the roll-out of RFID.

Timelines:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| October 5 th , 2005 | OECD Paris workshop on “Critical Issues for Policy Makers”, an opportunity to launch a wider reflection on this issue. |
| 1 st Quarter 2006 | RFID workshop on inter-operability |

4.8. *Intelligent Transport Systems*

“Encourage collaboration on development and take up of Intelligent Transport Systems/ Telematics (ITS) for intelligent vehicles” (Text of Economic Initiative).

Objectives:

Encourage collaboration on development and take-up of Intelligent Transport Systems/Telematics (ITS) for intelligent vehicles

Specific Activities:

- Prepare position paper on state of art for use of new technology for transport (infrastructure and vehicles) in the EU;

- Organise exchange with counterparts in US on policy, technical and standardisation issues in the field of ITS, as well as current and planned research in this domain. To be achieved through the
- Identify topics of mutual interest. These could include current and planned research in this domain (e.g. Vehicle Infrastructure Initiative (US) and eSafety (EU) research and development projects), deployment issues, and effective dissemination of information on successful implementation of ITS, taking full advantage of joint initiatives at international conferences (e.g. organization of a common EU-US workshop on research and development projects at a conference such as ITS 2006 in London).

Measuring progress:

This topic identifies an area of mutual interest. The first priority would be to put the dialogue on a secure footing in order that identification of more concrete proposals can follow.

Defining goals for the 2006 Summit:

Endorse launch of dialogue, report on collaboration and take stock of progress.

Timelines:

Feb. 2006	Position paper on state of art for use of new technology for transport
April 2006	Technical exchange with US counterparts.
June 2006	Highlight topics for summit.

4.9. Cyber-security

“Establish a dialogue on cyber-security to bring together regulators, law enforcement and, as appropriate, intelligence agencies” (Text of Economic Initiative).

Objectives:

Establish EU-US dialogue to coincide with the revision of the Commission’s cybercrime policy, which is planned to take place in 2006, including issues related to protection of critical information infrastructure, terrorist use of the internet, identity theft, admissibility of electronic evidence and combating on-line child pornography.

Specific activities:

In the above context, a number of meetings will be organised involving cybercrime experts of the EU Member States, as well as representatives of Europol and Eurojust. That process could involve the US in the on-going debate on these issues within the EU. This should provide for a good overview of current issues and initiatives, not only from the Commission, but also from the point of view of national experts/regulators and European bodies most closely involved.

Within this work – and reviewing the work done so far by the G8 high tech crime subgroup to avoid overlap – areas which could usefully be discussed might include protection of critical information infrastructure, issues surrounding illegal content, such as child pornography and use of the internet for terrorist purposes. The issue of data retention could also be discussed, if not already taken on-board within the broader dialogue of counter-terrorism work. Europol and its US counterparts could possibly have a role to play here as well.

Measuring progress:

Meeting(s) of EU and US cybercrime experts in 2006.

Goals for the 2006 Summit:

Identification and endorsement of areas for EU-US cyber security dialogue.

Timelines:

See above.

4.10. *Internet purchases*

“Support OECD efforts to develop an approach to international redress for international internet purchases” (Text of Economic Initiative).

The US is invited to present its ideas under this heading.

4.11. *Countering spam, spyware and malware*

“Cooperate to tackle spam through joint enforcement initiatives, and explore ways to fight against illegal “spyware” and “malware” (Text of Economic Initiative).

Objectives:

Strengthening co-operation on enforcement at the bilateral level and co-operating at the multilateral level to raise awareness among third countries about the need to tackle spam originating in their territory.

Specific Activities:

International cooperation is a key part of implementing the strategy described in the Commission’s January 2004 Communication identifying actions to complement the EU Directive on Privacy and Electronic Communications and its ban on spam. International initiatives are increasingly enlarging their scope and discussing also issues like phishing and spyware, as these practices become more frequent. In this context, specific activities are already underway, such as the Joint meeting of the Contact Network of Spam Authorities (CNSA) and the London Action Plan (gathering enforcement authorities from 20 countries at the initiative of the Office of Fair Trading (UK) and the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in London, 3-4 November 2005

Awareness-raising actions are planned in the context of the OECD Task Force on spam and other OECD initiatives, notably in developing the “toolkit”. Co-operation should also be encouraged at the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS, Tunis, 16-18 November 2005). This would stress the importance to all participating countries of taking an active role in fighting spam originating within their own borders and joining international efforts to limit spam. We could also ensure that declarations adopted in the summer reflect this priority and work together on the follow-up to WSIS to ensure implementation.

Measuring Progress:

Accomplishment of the activities listed, namely progress at OECD level, outcome of WSIS and initiatives to facilitate enforcement of cross border complaints. Put dialogue between CNSA and FTC on a secure footing.

Defining goals for the 2006 Summit:

Endorse dialogue and take stock of results.

Timelines:

3-4 November 2005 CNSA/LAP-FTC meeting, London
16-18 November 2005 WSIS, Tunis

4.12. Health and medical technologies

“Explore cooperative work on health and medical technologies” (Text of Economic Initiative).

Objectives:

Exchange information on research and technological developments in molecular imaging on both sides of the Atlantic, and to explore opportunities for joint activities.

Specific Activities:

Medical imaging techniques contribute significantly to improvement in biology and medicine. It has already improved non-invasive detection, evaluation and monitoring of major diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases and cancer resulting in more appropriate and efficient treatments. Molecular imaging will be proposed as a topic for an EC-US workshop to be organised under the umbrella of the EC-US Task Force on Biotechnology Research, which aims to promote information exchange and coordination between biotechnology research programmes funded by the Commission and the US.

The goals of the EC-US Workshop on Molecular Imaging will be:

- to identify and prioritise emerging research opportunities;
- to develop recommendations to enhance collaboration and scientific exchange between EU and US scientists;
- to explore opportunities for joint activities between funding agencies.

Examples of specific topics that could be covered are:

- medical knowledge of the diseases being studied for (pre-)clinical development and validation;
- biochemistry and molecular biology of the cellular processes being visualized for developing novel probes;
- physics of image formation and acquisition for developing bio-imaging technologies;
- bioinformatics of data modelling, correlation, and quantitative analysis for integration of image modalities, diagnosis and treatment selection;
- standardization to facilitate the exchange of protocols and data.

Measuring Progress:

EC-US Task Force on Biotechnology Research will consider further activities based on the recommendations of the Workshop.

Defining Goals for the 2006 Summit:

Report of the Workshop will be made available for the Summit.

Timelines:

26-27 September 2005 First discussion in the Task Force Meeting in Washington.
2006 Organisation of the workshop, providing that it is adopted by the Task Force.

5. Enhancing trade, travel and security

“Our aim is to create a more secure and efficient transatlantic and global supply chain by developing and adopting effective, compatible security standards and customs benefits” (Text of Economic Initiative).

5.1. Visa exempt travel

“The EU and the US continue to support on-going discussions on reciprocal visa exempt travel for short-term stays for our citizens” (Text of Economic Initiative).

Objectives:

Extend the US visa waiver programme to citizens of all EU Member States.

Specific Activities:

The Commission is currently implementing the new reciprocity mechanism pursuant to Regulation No 851/2005. Under this mechanism the Commission and US authorities will discuss steps to restore visa free travel. EU Member States have notified the different reciprocity situations which were published in the Official Journal of the European Union, series C 251 of 11.10.2005.

5.2. “Trusted persons” initiative

“We agree to pursue measures to facilitate business and tourist travel, including consideration of a “trusted persons” initiative” (Text of Economic Initiative).

Objectives:

We are awaiting further information from the US side about its intentions with regard to the nature, scope and timing of the proposals under consideration.

5.3. WCO Council framework

“Our aim is to create a more secure and efficient transatlantic and global supply chain by developing and adopting effective, compatible security standards and customs benefits. Our joint efforts contributed significantly to the development of the WCO framework of standards for security facilitation. We strongly support adoption of this framework by the WCO Council in June 2005 and are committed to its implementation.” (Text of Economic Initiative)

Objectives:

The WCO Council Framework of standards for security and facilitation aims to:

- Establish standards that provide supply chain security and facilitation at a global level to promote certainty and predictability.
- Enable integrated supply chain management for all modes of transport.
- Enhance the role, functions and capabilities of Customs to meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st Century.
- Strengthen co-operation between Customs administrations to improve their capability to detect high-risk consignments.
- Strengthen Customs/Business co-operation.
- Promote the seamless movement of goods through secure international trade

Specific Activities:

Producing legislation to implement the framework of standards. The Community Customs Code has been amended. Implementing provisions have still to be adopted.

Measuring progress:

The implementing provisions will be prepared. For each Standard for security and facilitation the progress will be monitored.

Defining Goals for the 2006 Summit:

Secure the supply chain strengthening the customs co-operation through the promotion of the use of best practices and mutual recognition.

Timelines:

Draft of the implementing provisions: January 2006.

5.4. EU Authorised Economic Operator and US C-TPAT Programme

“Our aim is to create a more secure and efficient transatlantic and global supply chain by developing and adopting effective, compatible security standards and customs benefits...We continue working toward avoiding adverse consequences for transatlantic shippers, including by working to ensure the compatibility of the EU’s Authorised Economic Operator concept and the US C-TPAT Programme” (Text of Economic Initiative).

Objectives:

1. Create an in-depth knowledge and understanding of US and EU industry partnership programmes;
2. Identify similarities and differences in the C-TPAT Programme and the EU concept of Authorised Economic Operator for standards and decision making processes.
3. Propose security standards and decision-making processes to develop mutually acceptable industry partnership programmes in order to improve security and facilitation within transatlantic supply chains.

Specific Activities:

In order to further the principles articulated in the Agreement between the EU and the US on intensifying and broadening the Agreement on and Mutual Assistance in Customs matters to include co-operation on container security and related matters. In the framework of the broadened Agreement on Customs Co-operation, an expert group has been established to address issues associated with industry partnerships and trade facilitation .It recommends to create joint teams to participate in a study to compare the US C-TPAT programme and the EU authorization process of companies for customs procedures including the draft requirements for the new concept of Authorised Economic Operators (AEO).

Measuring progress:

The EC-US expert group on trade partnership will report on the study and the achievement of in particular the above-mentioned objectives 1 and 2. The group will also draft recommendations to the EC-US Joint Customs Cooperation Committee on how to achieve a mutual recognition of the AEO and C-TPAT programmes. It is expected that the Implementing regulation outlining the requirements for the AEO will be finalised by the end of 2005 and may enter into force by mid 2006.

Defining Goals for the 2006 Summit:

Elaborate on the recommendations the EC-US Joint Customs Cooperation Committee will make on the development of mutually acceptable industry partnership programs in order to improve security and facilitation within transatlantic supply chains.

Timelines:

- The EC-US expert group on trade partnership will finalise the report on the study by November 2005 to the EC-US JCCC.
- The next meeting of the EC-US Joint Customs Cooperation Committee is scheduled for January 2006.
- Implementation of the results is depending on the finalisation of the legal framework for the AEO concept.

5.5. Air transport security and cargo traffic

“We also will seek compatible practices and standards to enhance air transport security and facilitate air cargo traffic” (Text of Economic Initiative).

Objectives:

Achieve an effective dialogue in the policy field of cargo, leading to confidence building and mutual recognition of existing air cargo measures which hold equivalent standards and thus elimination of duplications and redundancies.

Specific Activities:

Two meetings of EU-US Air Cargo Technical Group established by the Policy Dialogue on Border and Transport Security took place on 8-9 March and 5-6 September 2005.

A workshop on air cargo screening practices to share best practice is planned for January-February 2006, as well as joint air cargo security training activities and visits to airports are planned in Autumn 2005 and Spring 2006.

Measuring progress:

The EU-US Air Cargo Technical Group has met twice in both meeting resulting in positive and noticeable progress where both sides noted existence of compatible standards in the field of air cargo.

Defining Goals for the 2006 Summit:

Continued support for the air cargo technical dialogue with aim to further confidence-building in each other's security measures, and consideration of steps towards mutual recognition in the field of air cargo.

Arrangements to support the sharing of confidential information under the ongoing regulatory dialogues

5.6. Security-related technologies

“We agree to explore measures to.....explore means to increase cooperation in research and development of security-related technologies” (Text of Economic Initiative).

Objectives:

- To exchange experiences related to the creation of the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the US Homeland Security Council and new EU policies in the areas of justice, liberty and security as well as transport, border security and civil protection. To better understand the respective EU internal civil security and US homeland security research programmes, identifying common points and differences.
- To explore avenues of cooperation in security research with DHS, in coordination with other EC services. Potential starting domains: border and transport security - standardization and interoperability-, protection against terrorism and joint analysis of vulnerabilities and identification of gaps, Critical Information Infrastructure Protection and resilience of networks of systems (including in cases of natural disaster), multimodal biometrics.

Specific Activities:

- In order to elaborate concrete ideas a working group should be established. Its mandate could consist of:
 - establishing transparency, by identifying who does what
 - discussing the steps needed to establish cooperative activities
 - reporting regularly and move towards cooperation.
- Contributions to other transatlantic meetings such as the ‘Policy dialogue on border and transport security’;
- Although the rules for participation in the EU’s forthcoming programme of security research are not yet defined, US companies, universities and research organisations will probably be able to participate in future calls for proposals.

Security Research is a separate part of the Commission’s proposal for the EU’s 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013), in addition to ongoing research on cyber-security. In the meantime, the Commission is continuing its research in the current Framework (in particular ICT for Trust and Security) and the Preparatory Action in the field of Security Research (PASR). This was launched in 2004 as a pilot phase. Information on the topics selected for research activities are shared with US colleagues.

Measuring progress:

Progress will also be measured by the working group, once set up.

Defining Goals for the 2006 Summit:

To monitor and take stock of the progress made in the field of co-operation in research and development of security-related technologies.

Timelines:

Timetable for the proposed working group:

October or November 2005	preparatory meeting on service level
March 2006	workshop on common areas for cooperation (possible involvement of industry)
Autumn 2006	follow up meeting

6. Promoting Energy Efficiency

“The EU and the US will work together, to advance energy security, renewables, energy efficiency and economic development” (Text of Economic Initiative).

6.1. Developing countries

“Working in partnership with developing countries to help them reduce poverty by promoting energy efficient policies and the use of renewable energy sources, as well as deploying advanced, efficient, affordable energy technologies to help meet their energy needs” (Text of Economic Initiative).

Objectives

Cooperation should be targeted to assist developing countries in increasing access to modern and sustainable energy services, with an initial focus on Sub-Saharan Africa

Specific activities:

The situation of Sub-Saharan Africa is particularly worrying, with less than 10% of the population having access to electricity and other modern and reliable forms of energy. This is a barrier for economic and social development, including for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and poverty eradication. This is recognised by several recent documents such as the WSSD Plan of Implementation, the report of the Commission for Africa, and the report of the UN Millennium Project (the ‘Sachs’ Report). At the WSSD in 2002, the EU launched the EU Energy Initiative on Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development (EUEI), as a joint commitment of the Commission and Member States to increase the political focus on and to attract resources to energy and poverty. One of the specific outcomes of this is the recent allocation of €220 m of EDF funds to the ACP-EU Energy Facility. Furthermore, and if approved, the proposed Africa-Europe Partnership on Infrastructure will substantially scale up EU activities in the energy area.

Activities could include:

- Intensify the energy and development policy dialogue with USAID
- Coordinate support to energy policy development and the creation of enabling frameworks in the developing world, especially in Africa.
- Coordinate possible future US financed energy activities in Africa with the existing activities, including those under the umbrella of the EUEI.
- Encourage EU and US private sector present in developing countries to undertake, e.g. under the framework of Corporate Social Responsibility, activities which contribute to poverty reduction.
- Develop viable concepts for Public-Private Partnerships to deliver energy services to poor areas

Timetable and possible benchmarks:

At the international level, the following events could be relevant for the dialogue:

- The 2006-07 work programme of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD), where energy for sustainable development is a thematic focus. This includes, for instance:

- A CSD Regional Preparatory meeting for the Europe and North America, December 2005;
- The CSD 14 review session in New York, May 2006;
- The CSD 15 policy session in New York, April/May 2007.
- The World Bank Energy Week, March 2006, and the 'energy market place' event suggested by USAID.
- A bilateral follow-up meeting after the 2006 Summit, focussing on making operational possible cooperation in the energy and development field.

Goals for the 2006 Summit:

An agreement between the US and the EU to cooperate on improving energy access in Sub Sahara Africa, with a view to alleviate poverty and strengthen economic and social development.

6.2. Carbon sequestration

“Working together through the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum to foster the development and deployment of clean, efficient technologies, especially in key developing economies, as global reliance on fossil fuels, particularly coal, continues” (Text of Economic Initiative)

Objectives:

The EU and US should work together in coordinating actions to be proposed under the multi-country cooperation schemes, focussing on the strengthening of the existing mechanisms and activities set up in the framework of the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum (CSLF).

Specific activities:

If ambitious climate objectives are to be met beyond 2012 all options need to be explored: advanced R&D that may support the development and deployment of carbon sequestration systems is one of those options. The objective of the (CSLF) is to establish a framework for international co-operation aiming at developing improved cost-effective technologies for separating carbon dioxide from fossil fuel power plants, to store and transport it safely and without environmental damage for the long term, and to make these technologies broadly applicable internationally.

The Commission will coordinate views and positions of the involved European Member States and work with the US chair and Secretariat of the CSLF to propose specific actions and mobilise other countries, particularly emerging economies into the development, acquisition and deployment of the relevant technologies. Such exchange of views and draft agendas should take place in advance of planned Policy Group (CSLF) meetings.

As opposed to the partial process of CO₂ capture, its geological storage is mainly subject to international standards and regulations which need to be developed, agreed and implemented into legislation as well as into regional and international conventions. EU and US as major partners in several organisations and agreements relevant to CO₂ storage are in a privileged position jointly to develop principles and mechanisms for transport, injection and post-injection stages.

As regards CO₂ storage, and through their membership in international conventions dealing with marine pollution such as OSPAR⁵ and London Convention⁶, the EU and the US could explore options for amendments to secure CO₂ storage in deep geological formations underneath sea that will be instrumental in developing international standards for all storage stages. Further, in pursuit of worldwide acknowledgement for geological storage as an effective and accepted CO₂ sink option in line with UNFCCC⁷, standards and regulations should be developed which enable issuance of credits/tradable certificates for storage projects.

Timetable and possible benchmarks:

Exchanges of views should take place at least 8 weeks in advance of planned meetings.

Goals for the 2006 Summit:

Review and report results of mutually agreed EU-US actions

6.3. Hydrogen

"Promoting our work on hydrogen technologies and the International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy" (Text of Economic Initiative).

Objectives:

The EU and US should work together in coordinating agendas and actions to be proposed under the IPHE's multi-country cooperation schemes, including exchange of views and draft agendas in advance of planned Steering Committee meetings.

Specific activities:

Given their potential for storage and decentralised uses of energy, for diversifying primary energy sources, for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and for facilitating the transition towards renewable energy, hydrogen and fuel cells have been identified as major factors toward the achievement of the EU's sustainable energy objectives.

Two specific mechanisms have been set up to cooperate in this area:

- A 2003 amendment to the Implementing Agreement between the US Department of Energy and the European Commission, for non-nuclear energy scientific and technological cooperation relating to cooperation in the area of fuel cells
- Commission participation in the "International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy" (IPHE), which has the overall objective of supporting the deployment of hydrogen and fuel cells technologies, both for transportation systems and stationary applications. IPHE is meant to serve as an open mechanism to organize and implement effective, efficient, and focused multinational research, development, demonstration and commercial utilization activities related to hydrogen energy technologies and to provide a forum and to support established bodies in the development of codes and standards that can accelerate the cost-effective transition to a global hydrogen economy.

⁵ Oslo-Paris Convention for the North-East Atlantic (EU is member)

⁶ London Convention of 1972 for marine waters worldwide other than the internal waters of States (US is member)

⁷ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

The Commission will work with the US chair and Secretariat to propose specific actions and mobilise other countries, particularly emerging economies, in the development, acquisition and deployment of the relevant technologies.

Timetable and possible benchmarks:

The exchange of views should take place at least 8 weeks in advance of planned meetings.

Goals for the 2006 Summit:

Review and report results of mutually agreed EU-US actions.

6.4. Nuclear

“Working together to ensure the continued safe operation of existing nuclear generation and to exchange experience on nuclear safety measures and control” (Text of Economic Initiative).

Objectives:

Enhance the implementation of on-going administrative arrangements and stimulate further dialogue between the relevant European Commission services and US Government Departments (DOE, DOS, NRC) to explore future co-operation and harmonisation in the implementation of internationally recognised nuclear safety measures consistent with the objectives of the Nuclear Safety Convention, creating conditions of safety necessary to eliminate hazards to the health and safety of the public.

Specific activities:

The Administrative Arrangement pursuant to the 1996 Agreement for the co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy between Euratom and the USA is almost 10 years old and urgently needs to be reviewed and updated to reflect current practices and improve implementation of mutual reporting procedures for export and import of nuclear and associated non-nuclear materials identified under the agreement.

Working groups could be established to exchange experience in the implementation of nuclear safety standards and regulations. A specific example could focus on the control of high active radioactive sources with respect to the rules laid down in both the HASS directive and the IAEA Code of Conduct as well as the latter’s guidance on export and import of such sources.

The “Generation IV” International Forum (GIF), launched in 2000 by the US DOE, concerns concepts for one or more future nuclear energy systems that can be operated in a manner that will amongst other criteria, address nuclear safety, waste and proliferation concerns. Since 30 July 2003, Euratom became a signatory of the GIF Charter bringing the members (including France and the UK) to eleven. Several EU Member States are also interested in participating in R&D activities under the Euratom umbrella. A Framework Agreement, which creates a legally binding framework to permit R&D work at the project level, was opened for signature on 11 February 2005. The Commission launched internal consultation within the Community on 25 May 2005 to allow for accession of Euratom to the Framework Agreement. The item is on the agenda of the UK Presidency.

Timetable and possible benchmarks:

- Organise a meeting in Luxembourg of the JWTG under the 1996 Agreement for the co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy between Euratom and the USA before the end of 2005. Review and update the Administrative Arrangements to the Agreement and finalise all outstanding actions.
- Establish further dialogue between the Commission and the US NRC, with view to organising a meeting in Washington before March 2006. The possibility to establish working groups to exchange nuclear regulatory experience should be on the Agenda and a possible outcome of the meeting.
- Accession of Euratom to the GIF Framework Agreement when agreed.

Goals for the 2006 Summit:

Improve the frequency and depth of dialogue between the Commission services and the US Governmental departments; DOE, DOS, NRC with view to exchange of experience in the implementation of regulatory measures as well as bilateral and international agreements on nuclear Safeguards, Safety and Security issues.

6.5. Renewable energy and energy efficiency

“Continuing work to advance all forms of renewable energy, and to promote the use of renewable and energy efficiency technology and policy measures, including promotion of energy conservation” (Text of Economic Initiative)

Objectives:

The EU and the US should join forces to promote and implement policies to improve energy efficiency and promote renewables globally. The EU and the US should jointly support developing countries in improving energy efficiency and energy production from renewables in order to benefit from the associated improvements in security of supply and the economic development. These goals are in line with the EU Energy Initiative for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development and contribute towards the UN Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

Specific activities:

R&D co-operation is legally based on the 1997 S&T agreement, which allows cooperation in a wide range of areas. It is complemented by the 2001 Implementing Agreement on non-nuclear energy. The aim of the latter is to define the priority cooperation areas and to establish a framework for collaboration in specific areas where the programs of the EC and the DoE complement one another as well as those in which comparability exists.

6.5.1. Energy Efficiency

Information and communication technology and consumer electronics: Close links have already been established in the framework of the Energy Star programme for office equipment and the EC code of conduct initiatives for consumer electronics and in particular power supplies in order to facilitate the definition of common requirements on energy efficiency and the prerequisite harmonization of standards and measurement methods. EU and US should cooperate to promote worldwide accepted standards which lead globally to energy efficiency improvements.

Lighting: Both the EU and the US are aiming to improve the efficiency in this area. Lamps are traded globally and joint efforts to harmonize e.g. quality standards would help to increase the market share of energy efficient lighting (e.g. compact fluorescent lamps). Co-operation should include growth markets such as LEDs (light-emitting diodes) developed for “standard” purposes (e.g. conventional white domestic and commercial lighting).

Market transformation policies: EU-US sharing of experience in implementing such policies, e.g. creating market transparency and public awareness by labelling schemes for domestic appliances, certification and labelling of buildings currently being partially harmonised at EU level using new CEN standards, the EU car labelling scheme, and the developing white certification market in the EU. A relevant platform for intensified co-operation would be the “Implementing Agreements” of the International Energy Agency.

Public procurement: Exchange of views on strengthening public procurement as a tool to foster energy efficiency, e.g. through the Federal Energy Management Programme run by the US Department of Energy or the EU’s proposed Energy Services and End Use Energy Efficiency Directive.

6.5.2. Renewables

Bio-energy/bio-fuels: The EU's efforts to promote bio-diesel have been very successful. On the other hand, but the capacities for bio-ethanol production are larger in the US. Both the EU and the US are interested in research into second generation bio-fuels and have an interest in getting the oil and car industries to co-operate. Co-operation on research issues has been difficult due to intellectual property rights and in the past has been limited. Significant parts of industry are likely to support closer co-operation than is currently the case, including co-operation in developing standards for bio-ethanol. In the bio-fuels sector it would be beneficial jointly to support the first industrial scale plants on ethanol from lignocellulosics and Biomass-To-Liquid via the gasification route. Such plants could be seen in the framework of Biorefineries. Co-operation should also address the broader issues of bio-energy and energy crops, including bio-refineries.

Wind energy and solar heat: A platform for exchanging experiences between EU and US would intensify co-operation and benefit relations between renewable energy companies. The principle aim of an intensified EU-US co-operation in this sector should be to set up an EU-US partnership creating mechanisms assisting developing countries to invest in renewables and energy efficiency, thereby benefiting from the resulting impact for the security of energy supply and economic development. The EU and the US should take the lead in promoting energy efficiency and renewables in developing countries through G8, UN and World Bank.

Research: In fields of strong interest to both sides, simultaneous calls for proposals should be organised to allow research projects to receive funding. Bio-refineries and concentrated solar thermal energy systems are areas where the possibilities will be reviewed. Bilateral workshops should be used to create a better interface between the two research communities.

Timetable and possible benchmarks:

- As a member of the REEEP the Commission will coordinate positions of the European Member States involved on energy efficiency and renewables and propose, as a Member of the Steering board, specific actions in collaboration with the US.

- Renewal of the agreement EU-US agreement on the Energy Star Programme, optimizing the programme administration.
- Organise a joint workshop on second generation biofuels in mid-2006, with industry participation, as a forum where industrial partnerships can be built. This should aim to provide the necessary funds from both sides for the construction of industrial plants based on new technologies. The Biofuels Technology Platform should play a key role.
- Under the IPHE umbrella, participation of EU and US researchers in a workshop on hydrogen production from renewable energy sources (Seville, October 2005).
- Research: The first FP7 calls will be published at end 2006. Preparatory work to include collaborative topics should take place in early 2006.

Goals for the 2006 Summit:

The 2006 summit should decide on a roadmap defining the scope and priorities for joint actions fostering renewables and energy efficiency. Political agreement jointly to take the lead (via G8, UN, World Bank) to support developing countries in applying renewables and implementing energy efficiency improving measures.

Establish and endorse procedures for simultaneous calls for research proposals.

6.6. Clean Transport

“Working together to promote the development, deployment and adoption of cleaner, more efficient diesel vehicle technologies, including by seeking to better align our regulatory standards for diesel engines and fuels” (Text of Economic Initiative).

Objectives:

More efficient vehicle technology is of key importance for improved energy efficiency in the transport sector. While the text of the Resolution on this particular point is limited to diesel engine technology, the Commission is of the view that co-operation with the US in this area could be expanded to other fields covered by the current EU activities, including working together to:

- promote the market take-up of lower-consumption vehicles, new propulsion technologies and alternative transportation fuels to reduce emissions and oil dependency;
- promote the use of energy-efficient transport modes in conjunction with demand management solutions, better traffic management or improved logistics, to reducing energy consumption;
- strengthen and deepen the practical information exchange through peer exchanges, joint workshops and specific joint/co-ordinated actions on alternative fuels and energy efficiency in third/developing countries.

Specific activities:

Under the framework of the EU-US Energy Consultations, clean urban transport was identified as an area of cooperation in July of 2002. At that time a dialogue began between the US Clean Cities Program and the EC CIVITAS Initiative. This cooperation has been implemented through regular exchanges of information on technical and management issues between both sides. In addition, for three consecutive years there is a practical exchange of experiences during annual Clean Cities Conference and the CIVITAS Forum, where representatives of the Department of Energy's Clean Cities Program and the CIVITAS

Initiative take part. Both entities are committed to building upon this relationship to strengthen the co-operation between the two programmes.

Timetable and possible benchmarks:

Joint workshop between Commission and US-DOE during first quarter 2006 to review the current co-operation and to define practical work programme for next three years.

Goals for the 2006 Summit:

Review progress.

6.7. Methane

“Working through the international Methane to Markets Partnership to capture and use methane as a clean-burning energy source from coal mines, landfills and oil and gas systems” (Text of Economic Initiative).

Objectives:

The Methane to Market Partnership will focus on the development of strategies and markets for the recovery and use of methane through technology development, demonstration, deployment and diffusion, implementation of effective policy frameworks, identification of ways and means to support investment, and removal of barriers to collaborative project development and implementation.

Specific activities:

The Commission will seek to coordinate views and positions of the involved European Member States and work with the Steering Committee and Administrative Support Group of the partnership to propose specific actions and mobilise other countries, particularly emerging economies into the development, demonstration und deployment of relevant technologies.

Timetable and possible benchmarks:

The Commission is interested in the invitation to join the Methane to Markets partnership which could become effective in 2006 (currently, EU Member States are represented within the partnership by Italy and UK, while reportedly Germany is considering its participation).

Goals for the 2006 Summit:

Preparation of a basis document outlining the routes and instruments pursued both by the EU and the US for methane recovery and use in major emitting countries such as China, India, Russia, Nigeria, Ukraine.

7. Intellectual Property Rights

“Growing global piracy and counterfeiting threatens the competitiveness of innovative industries, the livelihoods of creative artists and workers, and the health and safety of consumers in the European Union, the United States and beyond. We are committed to effectively combating piracy and counterfeiting at home and abroad” (Text of Economic Initiative).

7.1. Fight against Counterfeiting and Piracy

Objectives:

- Promote strong and effective enforcement internally and at our borders;
- Strengthen cooperation to reduce global piracy and counterfeiting;
- Foster public-private partnerships to protect intellectual property.

Specific Activities:

1. The Commission and the US will aim to exchange information and to seek mutual support on enforcement related initiatives separately undertaken by the two parties in the framework of TRIPs. These initiatives are the Communication to the TRIPs Council about “IPR Enforcement” made by the EC in June 2005 and an exercise conducted by the US pursuant to Article 63.3 of the TRIPs Agreement, seeking enforcement related information from certain third countries.
2. The Commission and the US to develop information exchange on issues such as the compliance with IP rules of certain third countries applying to join the WTO, on the evolution of bilateral IP negotiations with third parties, on technical assistance initiatives in third countries, on the implementation of public-private partnerships and on the elaboration of best-practices.
3. The Commission and the US to work together on Customs enforcement under the EC-US Customs Co-operation agreement (exchange of operational experience, risk management etc).
4. The Commission and the US to exchange information on domestic enforcement measures, both in relation to promoting and upholding effective laws, regulations and/or procedures and in relation to appropriate digital rights management (DRMs) and technological protection measures (TPMs), whilst also taking due account of public policy interests, such as the promotion of fair competition and consumer rights, with a view to identify best practices.
5. On the promotion of strong and effective enforcement internally and at the borders, the commission highlights the following recent and foreseen developments:
 - o the commission submitted legislative proposals for enhanced criminal law protection of intellectual property rights on 12 July 2005 (COM(2005)276 final).
 - o Piracy and counterfeiting are among the issues to be dealt with within the overall context of coming to an EU action plan on public private-partnerships to combat organised crime which is scheduled for adoption in 2006.
6. US support for full EC participation in key IPR enforcement fora such as WIPO and WCO.

Measuring progress:

- Possible mutual support for the respective initiatives.
- Number of exchanges (operational information/risk management techniques/officials) and possibly increased customs seizures
- Contacts with all relevant stakeholders.

- US support for EC's full membership of key IPR enforcement multilateral fora such as WIPO.

Defining Goals for the 2006 Summit:

- If present experience is judged successful, continuing the exchange of information and co-operation in those particular initiatives which the parties identify as being of mutual interest.
- An intensified dialogue needs to be backed up by progress to implement IPR-related WTO rulings.
- Endorse and support the implementation of a joint EC-US strategic plan for Customs enforcement activities to be produced under the EC-US Customs Co-operation agreement.

Timelines:

1. By the next TRIPs Council (October 2005)
2. Continued exercise
3. Plan produced early 2006, implementation 2006 and 2007
4. Continued exercise
- 5&6 2006

7.2. International Substantive Patent System

Objectives:

- Protecting IPRs to promote innovation, employment and competitiveness. Mitigate costly differences in the ways in which IP is protected on either sides of the Atlantic. Patent protection plays an important role in this context. Main priority will be to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the patent system more generally through progress on substantive patent law harmonization. This will include a general move to "first to file".

Specific Activities:

Intensify existing dialogue between COM and US as follows:

1. Bilateral exchange of views on how to best move forward to arrive at an effective and efficient international substantive patent law system; this includes cooperation within WIPO and support of the plurilateral "Alexandria process".
2. The dialogue should also cover issues of concern to developing countries such as the disclosure of origin of genetic resources.
3. Look for constructive approaches to achieve a global standard "first to file" system.

Measuring Progress:

1. Number of bilateral meetings (including video conferences) on the above issues.
2. Contacts between officials involved on both sides of the Atlantic.
3. State of play of the discussions in the "Alexandria process" and in the WIPO General Assembly more generally.

Defining Goals for the 2006 Summit:

- Stocktaking on above mentioned activities.
- Ministerial support for progress on international substantive patent law harmonisation in WIPO.

Timelines:

1. WIPO general assemblies
2. Alexandria process (during 2006/2007).

8. Investment

“We agree to discuss any significant remaining obstacles to transatlantic investment that the other party identifies, and will consider how to address and reduce such obstacles with a view to promoting closer transatlantic economic integration” (Text of Economic Initiative).

Objectives:

With a view to promoting greater transatlantic economic integration and growth, jobs, competitiveness and consumer benefits,

- identify and consider how to reduce remaining obstacles to transatlantic investment;
- provide efficient and easily accessible information on investment regimes and policies to attract investment, with a special focus on informing small and medium enterprises.

Specific Activities:

1. Consider and reduce remaining obstacles to transatlantic investment:

- a) Identification of principal obstacles (such as burdensome screening and notification procedures for foreign investment projects, and foreign ownership restrictions) in close consultation with business and industry.
- b) Adoption of actions to reduce these obstacles. ex: reduce or replace such obstacles on both sides by simplified, reasonable and proportionate notification requirements.

2. Provide information on investment regimes and policies to attract investment:

- a) EU: information on information tools on the EU investment regime, such as the Euro Info Centres (EICs) and Euro Info Correspondence Centres (EICCs).
US: Set up single entry points where European Companies could get information on investment regimes of all US States.
- b) Consider ways to improve the exchange and dissemination of information (ex: develop the network of EICCs in the US).

Measuring progress:

Regular contacts between officials with a view to reach Summit Goals.

Get feedback from industry.

Defining Goals for the 2006 Summit:

- Adoption of a comprehensive list that identifies main obstacles to mutual investment;
- Adoption of specific actions to reduce such obstacles;
- Best endeavours commitment on standstill in order to prevent as far as possible the introduction of new barriers to transatlantic investment.
- Stocktaking of actions to improve mutual information on investment regimes.

Timelines:

All (except n°1b) by 2006 Summit

9. Competition policy and enforcement

“... our authorities will explore ways to allow them to exchange certain confidential information, including with respect to international cartels” (Text of Economic Initiative).

Objectives:

Conclusion of an Agreement with the United States which allows the exchange of confidential information in investigations under the respective competition laws.

Specific Activities:

Ongoing contacts with the US authorities; the feasibility of an Agreement is still subject to find a solution to several legal issues.

Measuring progress:

The first step is to establish the feasibility of an Agreement in simultaneous contacts with the Legal Service and with the US authorities. Further progress can only be measured once this issue has been resolved.

Defining Goals for the 2006 Summit:

In view of the complexity of the issues it is not realistic to define goals for the 2006 Summit.

Timelines:

In view of the complexity of the issues and before the feasibility of an Agreement has been established it is not possible to establish timelines.

10. Procurement

“ ... both sides will consider how to go beyond existing and future GPA commitments at the U.S.-EU bilateral level. This could include enhancing the use of electronic procurement on both sides” (Text of Economic Initiative).

Objectives:

- Reinforce EU-US co-ordination and co-operation with a view to:
 - (i) removing barriers of access to each other's procurement markets; and
 - (ii) fostering a global awareness of procurement principles in order to achieve an expansion of coverage of the plurilateral GPA, and to give new momentum to discussions on procurement at the multilateral WTO level after the conclusion of the Doha Round.
- Both sides will consider how to go beyond existing and future GPA commitments at the EU-US bilateral level.

Specific Activities:

1. Commission to discuss with US authorities how to best foster progress in ongoing plurilateral negotiations on government procurement in the context of the GPA review.
2. Commission to engage in discussions with all the relevant US authorities, including at the sub-federal level, on the legal, practical and technical difficulties encountered by respective suppliers when tendering in the US or EU; this includes inter alia increasing transparency of information on procurement opportunities between both Parties and tackling the increasing use of electronic means in procurement processes.
3. Commission to discuss with US authorities how to build the case and generate support, especially among non-OECD countries, for expanding procurement disciplines at plurilateral and, eventually, multilateral WTO level.
4. Commission and the US on how to go beyond existing and future GPA commitments at the bilateral level. Timing: not to start before the US presents a formal offer on coverage in the context of the GPA review.

Measuring progress:

1. State of play of negotiations
2. Establish list of legal, practical and technical barriers to cross border procurement between both Parties and of solutions/best practices to remedy them.
3. Development of an advocacy initiative in conceptual and practical terms.
4. Depends on GPA offers; afterwards: substantial increase in coverage achieved bilaterally.

Defining Goals for the 2006 Summit:

- Stocktaking on activities 1, 2 and 3.
- No deliverable anticipated for activity 4 by the time of 2006 Summit.

Timelines:

1. and 2. By 2006 Summit.
3. Report by 2007 Summit; possibly stakeholder events as from 2007.
4. By 2007 summit.

11. Services

11.1. Mutual recognition of qualifications

“We encourage competent authorities on both sides to look into the mutual recognition of professional qualifications, notably in sectors where economic interest or need has been substantiated by suppliers and/or users of professional services, such as is the case in the field of architectural services” (Text of Economic Initiative).

Objectives:

Mutual recognition of professional qualifications, notably in sectors where economic interest or need has been substantiated by suppliers and/or users of professional services, such as is the case in the field of architectural services.

Specific Activities:

- Commission and US authorities to encourage professional associations to submit specific, concrete and feasible recommendations on mutual recognition, taking into account the legal system of each party.
- EC regulators (Commission in contact with MS regulators) and US regulators to exchange information on regulatory regimes regarding specific and concrete professions/professional activities where professions on both sides have shown a specific interest in having an MRA
- Commission and US authorities, in close cooperation with all relevant regulators and professional associations, to identify best means for achieving mutual recognition in sectors where economic interest or need has been substantiated (e.g. establishment of a framework for negotiation of MRAs, establishment of a framework leading to autonomous recognition on a reciprocal basis, ...).
- Commission and US government, in close cooperation with regulators, to consider options to promote progress in the field of architectural services, where an inter-professional arrangement between EC and US professional associations could possibly be ready by summer 2006.

Measuring progress:

- Number of professions having submitted specific, concrete and feasible recommendations.
- Number of sectors on which information has been exchanged
- Having established a list of all relevant parties (on the EU and US side) and best means to agree and put MRAs in place.
- State of play of inter-professional arrangement between professional associations in the field of architectural services and state of play of preparatory work for formal negotiations to transpose it into an MRA.

Defining Goals for the 2006 Summit:

- Stocktaking on activities 1 and 2.
- Progress on the identification of best means for achieving mutual recognition in sectors where economic interest or need has been substantiated with a particular focus on architectural services.
- Ministerial support for progress in the field of architectural services

Timelines:

- 1.[January 2006]
- 2.[March 2006]
- 3.By 2006 summit
- 4.By 2006summit

11.2. Air transport services

“We should continue cooperation on aviation issues, including safety, security and liberalization, including achievement of a comprehensive first-step U.S.-EU air services agreement as soon as possible” (Text of Economic Initiative).

Objectives:

Re-start negotiations on and conclude a comprehensive and balanced EU-US air services agreement, setting at least the first steps of an Open Aviation Area between the US and the EU.

Specific Activities:

Following the last round of technical meetings with the US in Washington on 13-15 September 2005 and pending internal consultations on both sides of the Atlantic, both sides could be close to re-launching formal negotiations.

In particular, the Commission must consult the Special Committee set up to assist it in those negotiations on the issue. A meeting is foreseen on 27-28 September 2005

Measuring progress:

The dates of two rounds of negotiations have been provisionally fixed, should both sides confirm they are in a position to resume negotiations.

Defining Goals for the 2006 Summit:

Initialling the Open Aviation Area Agreement.

Timelines:

- Week of 17 October 2005: First possible round of negotiations
Week of 14 November 2005: possible second round of negotiations

ANNEX

MEMBER STATE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT STAGE, POST-2006 SUMMIT

4. Spurring innovation and the development of technology

- Speed up US export licensing of trade in high technology products to EU (LV).

4.5 Innovation policy and commercialization of research output

Development of and cooperation on the use of public-private partnerships to define and implement large-scale strategic research agendas: sharing experience on the approaches of European Technology Platforms and corresponding US initiatives. (DK)

Substantive IPR Issues

- Further progress on wine agreement and on geographic indications (FR)
- Emphasis on “haute couture” (FR)

11.1. Mutual recognition of qualifications

- Add 1-2 more mutual recognitions of professional qualifications (FR, LV, SE) – specific ones need to be identified and agreed by MS (LV suggests doctors (1st priority) and nurses (2nd priority)).

11.2. Air transport services

- Aim to work towards global security standards (AT)

Mutual acceptance of SPS standards needed, for instance for cheese (FR)