

## **European Commission-US roadmap to support and facilitate international patent law harmonization**

*During the first Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC) Meeting on 9 November in Washington D.C., Charlie McCreevy, European Commissioner for Internal Market and Services, and Carlos M. Gutierrez, US Secretary of Commerce, agreed that by the next meeting of the Council (end of May 2008), **the U.S. Government and European Commission will agree on a roadmap to support and facilitate international patent law harmonization.** The goal is to make progress towards an efficient and effective global patent system, especially within the so-called Group B+.*

1. The European Commission and US will cooperate at a technical level to lay groundwork for higher level EC-US contacts and will coordinate in advance of upcoming meetings with other Group B+ members and stakeholders with a view to facilitating progress in those discussions.

*Timeframe: May-September 2008*

2. The European Commission intend to discuss with EU Member States on the Alexandria process and the activities mentioned in this roadmap in the framework of the B+ Group.

*Timeframe: May-September 2008*

3. The European Commission and US will cooperate in informal B+ WG1 consultations organized by the WG1 Chair on the basis of the timeline/modalities agreed on the margins of 12 March Trilateral meeting in Munich.

*Timeframe: May-September 2008*

4. The European Commission and US will take note of stakeholder views, in particular at meetings tentatively scheduled to be held in Brussels in May 2008 and in Washington in June 2008. Both sides will share the outcome of consultations with each other and other B+ members.

*Timeframe: May-July 2008*

5. The European Commission and US will exchange views on the draft document to be provided by B+ WG1 Chair as requested during 2007 B+ Plenary, and share those views with EU Member States.

*Timeframe: May-August 2008*

6. The European Commission and US will hold a senior level meeting, as appropriate, to coordinate for the Group B+ Plenary, tentatively scheduled for September 2008.

*Timeframe: September 2008 (before B+ Plenary)*