

## **The American Chamber of Commerce in Germany e.V.**

The American Chamber of Commerce in Germany e.V. (AmCham Germany) represents the interests of American and German companies in all economic sectors engaged in transatlantic business. Moreover, AmCham Germany functions as the voice of American companies in Germany, which account for approximately 800,000 jobs and over 130 billion Euros in direct investment. Since our founding in 1903, we have dedicated our efforts to promoting trade relations on both sides of the Atlantic. With nearly 3000 members, we are now the largest bilateral business association in Europe.

AmCham Germany is based Berlin, where it maintains an office in the vicinity of the German government. Its executive office is located in Frankfurt am Main. AmCham Germany's representation is divided geographically into twelve regions, each with a regional chapter which organizes various AmCham Germany events.

### **AmCham Germany Areas of Focus**

1. Political lobbying in Berlin, Brussels, and Washington
2. Member services
3. Networking events

Through the above-mentioned activities, AmCham Germany is able to provide unique access to people and institutions that directly affect business, help control the costs of doing business and help expand markets.

## **1. Lobbying**

### Top Level Meetings

AmCham Germany's influence on current policy debates remains strong. AmCham Germany regularly meets with numerous leading policy makers, business and financial executives, journalists, and other political decision-makers. By doing so, AmCham Germany represents American industry interests before the American and German governments, the EU, and various interest groups.

### Committees

AmCham Germany's committees and working groups are instrumental in shaping AmCham Germany policy positions and supporting our members' interests. Policy Committees issue position papers and meet with high ranking government officials. Our members contribute their expertise in various fields and represent the interests of their firms within AmCham Germany in the following policy committees:

#### Policy Committees and Working Groups

- Corporate & Business Law
- Corporate Responsibility
- Financial Services
- Government Relations
- Health Care
- Social & Labor Affairs
- Sustainability (Energy & Environmental Policy)

- Tax
- Telecommunications, Internet, and Media
- Transatlantic Business

For an overview of current Policy Committee activities, please visit our website: <http://www.amcham.de/public-affairs.html>.

## 2. Member Services

### Support Committees

In the following support committees and working groups, members contributed their expertise in various fields and provided support to AmCham Germany's membership:

#### Communications Committee

Comprised of marketing and communication professionals, the Communications Committee strives to improve AmCham Germany's communication tools and preserve the high quality of its brand. The committee provides guidance for AmCham Germany's publications, including the monthly e-Newsletter, membership magazine "commerce germany," annual yearbook and business directory "US Investments in Germany."

#### International Business Committee (IBC)

The International Business Committee (IBC) emerged from the former German-American Business Support Committee (GABSC) and the Small and Medium-Sized Businesses (SMB) Committee. The IBC will continue its function as an important support committee for AmCham's SMEs. In addition to transatlantic issues, future aims include providing advice and assistance in global business affairs, such as the impacts of Asian economies on globalization, developments of the BRIC-States, NAFTA and Latin America. Uniting the expertise and resources of both GABSC and the SMB Committee, the IBC continues to serve as a networking instrument and to be a significant exchange platform for members providing hand-on economic information.

#### Access to transatlantic and EU information

AmCham Germany is part of an international policy network closely connected to key players and organizations in the transatlantic arena, thereby securing access to a wide range of information on transatlantic policy issues as well as on EU-US trade relations. This information is available to our members on a request basis.

#### Business Services

AmCham Germany's business services provide assistance tailored to members' needs. Research is conducted for companies seeking business contacts and address information. Qualified service partners in the U.S. and Germany provide assistance and aid members with targeted networking.

#### Publications

*commerce germany* is AmCham Germany's official publication. Founded in 1920, it is the oldest German-American business journal. ACC Verlag & Services GmbH, a wholly owned subsidiary of AmCham Germany, now publishes the journal. The magazine informs its readers about AmCham's activities and important transatlantic developments. AmCham Germany's

membership directory, the *Yearbook*, lists all members alphabetically and is a useful reference and networking tool. AmCham Germany also publishes a database of U.S. investments in Germany which is continuously updated. In addition, AmCham distributes a variety of business publications addressing German-American trade and investment issues as well as a yearly published book on corporate responsibility.

#### Website

AmCham Germany is constantly working to improve the website [www.amcham.de](http://www.amcham.de) for its members and guests. In addition to the many resources available to all users, the members-only section of the website has been expanded in order to provide additional resources such as draft documents, event invitations, and ways to contact fellow members for networking and lobbying purposes.

#### US German Internship Program - In cooperation with universities in the Southeastern region of the USA

Offering American students the opportunity to become acquainted with German culture through daily business interaction with their host companies, this program allows students to gain insight into the German economy, improve their already existent German language skills and enjoy cross-cultural challenges. The program is proudly supported by Hannelore Kraft, Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia, Philip D. Muphy, US Ambassador to Germany and Andrew Young, former US Ambassador to the UN and mayor of Atlanta.

AmCham Germany aims to continue to connect American students and German companies in the interest of mediating a positive view of Germany to the future leaders of the United States. Each young American who returns to the US will serve as an ambassador of German-American friendship. The program is organized by AmCham Germany and BridgehouseLaw and was established in 2010.

### **3. Networking Events**

AmCham Germany hosts approximately 150 events throughout Germany annually. These include business luncheons, dinners as well as briefings and lectures with distinguished guest speakers from business, government and the social sciences. Some of the highlights include:

#### Seminars

AmCham offers seminars on a regular basis in conjunction with corporate members active in German-American business. Topics range from German-American networking skills, briefings on German labor law, corporate regulations on data protection and tax regulations. AmCham Germany's lectures serve as a substantial platform for networking and offer customized marketing support for our members. They specifically focus on and offer detailed information on new legal, business and economic developments.

#### Annual Transatlantic Business Conference

In 2007, this conference took place for the first time and is intended to provide strategic inspiration and impulses for the economic and political partnership.

#### AmCham Transatlantic Partnership Award

AmCham Germany recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions in their field to further transatlantic relations and who have

made significant contributions to encouraging German-American friendship. The annual award recognizes high-ranking recipients from business, politics, social science, culture and the media.

#### AmCham Transatlantic Media & Communication Award

With this award AmCham Germany recognizes and encourages significant contributions to German-American relations in media and communications. Individuals or organizations who have contributed to transatlantic relations with outstanding achievements in the fields of press, radio, television, web, PR, advertising, design, photography, the music scene, the art scene or the theater can be nominated.

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