

## **PRESS RELEASE**

*Transatlantic Economic Council – Chicken import dispute*

### **Dispute over Chicken Imports Should Not Be Allowed to Damage Transatlantic Economic Partnership**

### **Continued Deepening of Transatlantic Economic Integration Essential – Many Agenda Issues Remain to Be Addressed**

Press Release/  
Presseinformation

*Berlin, June 6, 2008 – The American Chamber of Commerce in Germany (AmCham Germany) calls upon all parties not to attach the overall functioning of the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC) strictly to lifting the import ban on chemically-rinsed chicken from the USA.*

*Last Monday, the EU's Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFCAH) rejected plans by the European Commission to lift the import ban. Resolving this conflict, which constitutes a minimum of all transatlantic trade, would have a signaling effect on transatlantic trade and investment relations and would encourage successful future work of the TEC.*

Since 1997, the EU has had a ban on poultry from the United States. US producers use a low-concentration chlorine solution to clean the chickens before selling them, a practice which is prohibited in the EU. The US, however, regards the conduct of the EU in this case to be a violation of international trade law. Therefore, the chicken dispute was set as one of the priorities on the agenda of the Transatlantic Economic Council, which was established in 2007 through Chancellor Merkel's initiative in order to dismantle existing regulatory barriers to transatlantic trade and investment relations.

Lifting the import ban is, according to Daniel Price, the American Co-Chair of the Transatlantic Economic Council, of such great importance to the US that if the case cannot be resolved, the entire work of the TEC could be brought in question.

Günter Verheugen, European Co-Chair of the TEC and Vice President of the European Commission, accordingly announced at the last meeting of the TEC in mid-May that an answer to lifting the import ban would be found before the next EU-US summit on June 10. However, with a 26:1 vote, national experts from the SCoFCAH dismissed the Commission's respective proposal on June 2.

AmCham Germany calls upon both sides to emphatically continue working on a resolution to this trade conflict but also warns the parties not to jeopardize the transatlantic economic partnership by allowing its entire success to rely solely on the outcome of this issue.

There are many other issues on the agenda that still need to be addressed such as container security regulations, the dismantling of investment barriers, the harmonization of patent procedures and the mutual recognition of standards and testing methods for product safety, such as for cosmetics, medical devices, electronic equipment or biofuels.

“This issue must be kept in proper perspective,” says Dierk Müller, General Manager of AmCham Germany. “The trade-volume from the dispute over chicken imports adds up to approximately 16 Million EUR per year. This is an extremely minor portion of the total mutual trade relationship. A great deal more is at stake on both sides of the Atlantic, including the potential GDP growth of up to 3.5%. This is the estimated value, to which the measures of the transatlantic economic partnership amount. We should therefore each strive for the successful continuation of the transatlantic partnership and approach the next EU-US Summit meeting with this positive attitude.”

**AmCham Germany** is the largest bilateral business association in Europe. The companies organized in it represent approximately 130 billion euros of investment and 800,000 direct jobs. AmCham Germany sees itself as a communications bridge to investors in the United States. Its activities focus on the promotion of German-American business relations and Germany as a location for doing business.

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