

Rede anlässlich

**Jahrestagung der American Chamber of Commerce in
Germany e.V. in Stuttgart**

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Ministerin für Wirtschaft, Arbeit und Tourismus

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Dauer: 12-15 min

I. Introduction

Dear President Porter,
dear Ms. Menne,
dear Members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany,
dear distinguished guests,
ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure and an honor to speak to you today.

First of all, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Porter, on your election as the new President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany.

And to you, Ms. Menne, thank you for your many years of dedicated service in this role.

Let me also say how proud we are that this year's Annual General Meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany is taking place here at Inside MAHLE in Stuttgart. For us, this is far more than a symbolic venue choice. It reflects the close and longstanding relationship between Baden-Württemberg and the United States — a partnership built on innovation, industrial excellence, investment, and mutual trust. For decades, the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany has played an important role in strengthening this transatlantic relationship. And especially in times of geopolitical uncertainty, technological disruption, and economic transformation, organizations like AmCham Germany are more important than ever. Because strong transatlantic partnerships do not happen automatically. They are built through dialogue, cooperation, and long-term commitment between companies, institutions, and people.

II. Why the Transatlantic Partnership Matters More Than Ever

From the perspective of Baden-Württemberg, the relationship with the United States is not an abstract political concept. It is part of our economic DNA. The United States is not only our most important trading partner. It is also a strategic partner for innovation, industrial competitiveness, and economic resilience. And this partnership matters now more than ever.

We are currently witnessing how quickly geopolitical conflicts and economic tensions can affect global supply chains and international trade routes. The escalation of tensions in the Middle East and disruptions to critical maritime routes such as the

Strait of Hormuz remind us how vulnerable globally interconnected economies remain. For highly industrialized and export-oriented economies like Baden-Württemberg, this underlines the importance of reliable partnerships, resilient supply chains, and close cooperation among trusted allies.

That is why the transatlantic economic relationship has become an essential pillar of our broader political and strategic partnership. Because transatlantic cooperation today is about far more than exports and imports. It is about securing technological leadership together. It is about building resilient industrial value chains among trusted partners. And it is about defending open markets, innovation, and fair competition in an increasingly competitive global environment.

III. Baden-Württemberg's Commitment to International Cooperation

The newly elected government of Baden-Württemberg took office just last week. And I can assure that the new government will continue with a clear commitment to international openness, industrial transformation, and global competitiveness. The coalition agreement emphasizes the importance of strengthening international partnerships in key future technologies and strategic industries.

Our goal is clear: We want Baden-Württemberg to remain one of Europe's leading industrial and innovation regions. And we are convinced that this can only succeed through close cooperation with trusted international partners like the United States. This applies in particular to areas such as: artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, sustainable mobility, aerospace, life sciences, semiconductors, and clean technologies. At the same time, we want to further improve framework conditions for innovation and investment. Reducing bureaucracy, accelerating planning and approval procedures, strengthening research cooperation, and supporting industrial transformation remain central priorities of our economic policy.

IV. Baden-Württemberg as a strong innovation partner

When I travel across the United States - whether to California, Texas, Florida, or Georgia - I encounter the same spirit that drives our companies and institutions in Baden-Württemberg: Curiosity. Technological ambition. Entrepreneurship. And the determination to turn ideas into real-world solutions. These are values Baden-Württemberg and the United States deeply share.

Baden-Württemberg is one of Europe's strongest industrial and innovation regions. We are home to globally recognized companies such as MAHLE, Mercedes-Benz, Porsche, SAP, Bosch, Festo, and Stihl — alongside hundreds of highly specialized small and medium-sized enterprises, our famous hidden champions. What unites them is a culture of engineering excellence combined with a strong sense of responsibility. Innovation in Baden-Württemberg is never innovation for its own sake. It must strengthen competitiveness, improve people's lives, and contribute to sustainable prosperity. That is why we invest around five percent of our GDP in research and development — one of the highest rates in Europe.

Today, more than 400 companies from Baden-Württemberg operate in the United States, creating jobs, investing in local communities, and contributing to industrial innovation across America. At the same time, many leading American companies have chosen Baden-Württemberg as their European home. IBM's quantum computing activities near Stuttgart are only one example of the strong confidence American companies place in our innovation ecosystem. These investments are not short-term business decisions. They are long-term commitments built on trust and shared interests.

V. Shaping Industrial Transformation Together

Ladies and gentlemen,

The global economy is undergoing profound transformation. Our industries are facing enormous pressure: rapid advances in artificial intelligence and digitalization, increasing geopolitical instability, fragile supply chains, and growing international competition. Particularly in this environment, the transatlantic partnership is of strategic importance. Europe and the United States together still represent the world's strongest economic relationship. And this relationship is built not only on trade and investment, but also on shared values: Freedom. Democracy. Rule of law. Open markets. And the belief that innovation flourishes best in open societies. Of course, partners do not always agree on every policy issue. Recent trade disputes and tariff discussions have shown how quickly uncertainty affects investment decisions and industrial planning.

From our perspective, predictable and rules-based trade remains essential for sustainable growth and industrial competitiveness on both sides of the Atlantic. At the same time, we should focus on the enormous opportunities ahead of us.

Let me mention three examples.

First: mobility. Baden-Württemberg is the birthplace of the automobile. Today, our automotive industry is undergoing its biggest transformation in decades. Electric mobility, hydrogen technologies, autonomous driving, software-defined vehicles, and connected mobility ecosystems are reshaping the sector. At the same time, global competition - especially from China - is increasing significantly. This transformation cannot succeed in isolation. It requires technological openness and strong international partnerships.

Second: aerospace and advanced technologies. Baden-Württemberg is also a leading European location for aerospace research, satellite technologies, robotics, and advanced manufacturing. Companies, like Airbus or Diehl Aerospace, and research institutions, like the DLR, are working closely with American partners on next-generation technologies — from space applications to next generation aviation materials.

Third: innovation ecosystems. The United States brings extraordinary entrepreneurial speed and scaling capabilities. Baden-Württemberg contributes industrial depth, engineering precision, and long-term technological reliability. If we combine these strengths intelligently, we can create globally leading innovation ecosystems. And this is exactly where organizations like AmCham Germany make such a difference: bringing together business leaders, innovators, policymakers, and researchers from both sides of the Atlantic.

VI. Conclusion

Ladies and gentlemen,

The future of the transatlantic partnership will not be decided only in political summits. It will be decided in research centers, in factories, in start-ups, in universities, and in the daily cooperation between companies, engineers, entrepreneurs, and investors. This is where trust becomes progress. And this is where Baden-Württemberg wants to continue playing an active role. We are ready to deepen cooperation with American partners in industrial innovation, digital transformation, sustainable manufacturing, energy technologies, aerospace, and life sciences.

And we are already turning this commitment into concrete action. During my last visit to the United States in November 2025, we signed a Joint Declaration of Intent with the State of Florida to further strengthen and deepen our economic cooperation -

particularly in the fields of aerospace, mobility, and innovation. Because our mission is clear: To ensure that the transatlantic economy remains the world's leading innovation partnership. The relationship between Germany and the United States has always been strongest when we approached challenges together with confidence and optimism. And I firmly believe: If American entrepreneurship meets German engineering excellence, if innovation meets responsibility, and if economic strength is combined with shared values, then the transatlantic partnership will continue to shape global progress for decades to come.

Thank you very much.