1 In your opinion, what makes Germany such an attractive investment location for US companies?

Germany has a mature industrial structure with a strong focus on the automotive and manufacturing sectors. Its robust mid-market segment as well as its excellent global players have been the backbone of economic growth and stability, especially over the past decade. All of these companies are handling vast amounts of industrial data. For this reason, Germany is a very attractive region for investment opportunities related to Industry 4.0, connected mobility and the development of digital capabilities in general. In addition, Germany offers a sound infrastructure, extensive know-how from research institutions and a very skilled workforce.

2 What opportunities and challenges does the transatlantic relationship currently face?

It is more important than ever that both sides of the Atlantic reflect on the significance of our past and the importance of our current and future relationship. The EU-US partnership not only is the anchor of global stability, peace and prosperity, but has seen its respective economies become more intertwined than ever before. On the back of this, millions of jobs have been created on both sides of the Atlantic. I personally believe that the deep foundation of our relationship will help to address existing points of contention around climate change and trade in the long term. Global issues such as climate change are critical for future generations and can only be solved jointly. A continued open dialogue will be the key to success.

3 What is your favorite place in the US or Germany and why?

I love California. Apart from the vibrant flair of San Francisco and the Bay Area, the beauty of the national parks — especially Yosemite — simply cannot be matched. I have spent a lot of time there with my family hiking through the hills around Yosemite Valley. All of us, and especially my children, enjoyed the giant redwoods and the breathtaking views.