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

Germany is an important business destination. Still incredibly strong with a huge domestic market and a tremendous export ratio, Germany is the heart of Europe. Our excellent infrastructure serves as a gateway to the established western and emerging eastern European markets. Our educational system guarantees a talented and productive workforce. Our start-up culture is growing, and digital transformation is and will play a key role. Our broad research landscape ensures further advancement in top industries such as renewable energies, automotive and sustainable mobility solutions, smart cities, biotechnology, healthcare, and the life sciences. In addition, Germany is Europe’s leading country for research and a leading patent applicant.

What opportunities and challenges does the transatlantic relationship currently face?

We’ve had more than 70 years of peace and welfare, and we share the values of freedom and democracy. I believe this forms a solid foundation that allows spirited bilateral dialogue between both sides of the Atlantic. I’m confident we learned our historical lessons very well and will be able to jointly solve the global challenges we and future generations face. Climate change, migration, growing income inequality, technological change and the influence of social media are creating opportunities for increased dialogue.

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

Both countries offer great diversity: The landscapes and cultures are so different and so wonderful to explore, which opens your mind and expands your personal horizon. I love both countries with their lively cities and silent countrysides, their oceans and mountains. Really, I have no preference. Travel and feel the experience! Discovering and rediscovering the beauty of 1,001 places in the US and Germany has been amazing for me and my family.