

Let's talk about free trade

AmCham Germany and US Embassy cohost US Congressional Business Luncheon at the Munich Security Conference.

AmCham Germany cohosted the official luncheon for the delegation of members of US Congress and the US administration at the Munich Security Conference in February 2019. In cooperation with the US Embassy, AmCham Germany brought together US lawmakers and business leaders of American and German companies to discuss current challenges in the transatlantic relationship. Attendees especially appreciated meeting Ivanka Trump, Special Adviser to the US President, “the gentle part of the US government,”

The event facilitated an open and confidential discussion between American politicians and companies in Germany

as journalist Gordon Repinski characterized her in the Berliner Zeitung afterward. Participants included Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Representative Elissa Slotkin (D-MI) and Senator Richard Scott (R-FL), along with nearly 30 additional congressional members from both, the Democratic and the Republican parties. Business participants included CEOs Stefan Oschmann from

Merck and Marillyn Hewson from Lockheed Martin Corporation, Donatus Kaufmann, Member of the Management Board of thyssenkrupp, Bernd Eulitz, Member of the Management Board of Linde, and other c-level representatives from global players and *Mittelstand*.

Transatlantic relationship, vocational training and diversity

The approximately 60 participants discussed issues at the core of the transatlantic economic relationship, including tariffs, sanctions and the potential US-EU free trade agreement. Additional topics included workforce qualifications and enhancing diversity in business environments. Lunch attendees agreed that the US and Germany can learn from each other when it comes to addressing diversity in business and training workers for the future.

Top: Stefan Oschmann, CEO of Merck, and Ivanka Trump, Special Adviser to the US President.

Participants included Susanne Deissenberger, ThermoFisher; Eveline Metzen, AmCham Germany; Gabriele Hässig, Procter & Gamble; Marillyn Hewson, Lockheed Martin; Dr. Sylvia Rothblum, Warner Bros.; Ivanka Trump, US White House; Meghan Gregonis, US Consulate; and Francisca Schmidt, AmCham Germany.



we inform you about AmCham Germany's advocacy work. As the voice of transatlantic business, we're committed to having an open ear for our members and conveying their interests to relevant political leaders, think tank members and other stakeholders in Germany, Europe and the US. Strong transatlantic ties are the guiding principle of our policy committees, which are an important pillar of the Chamber's portfolio.



Bringing business and politics together to discuss today's challenges in the transatlantic relationship.

A side event with central significance

The luncheon took place during the Munich Security Conference as an official side event. Frank Sportolari, President of AmCham Germany, stressed that the event would facilitate an open and confidential discussion between American politicians and companies in Germany.

Issues at the core of the transatlantic economic relationship were discussed

It became clear at the luncheon that the US and Germany share many concerns and that these can best be resolved together.

AmCham Germany views the participation of the high-ranking and large US delegation, comprised of members from both parties, as a clear commitment to transatlantic relations. The company representatives, ranging from medium-sized businesses to global corporations, used the opportunity to point out obstacles to economic relations and to discuss how to improve working together in the future.



Top: Ivanka Trump with John D. Harris II, Vice President of Business Development for Raytheon Company and CEO of Raytheon International, Inc.

Bottom: Time for constructive exchange: Meghan Gregonis US Consul General in Munich with Frank Sportolari, President of AmCham Germany.