

A Letter from the President

July 4, 2013

Dear Members,

Today, as we celebrate America's Independence Day, we also celebrate the steady and strong economic relations between Germany and the United States. Outside of the EU, the US is our most significant trading partner. Still, there remains room for improvement. Only by utilizing the full potential of transatlantic economic relations will we achieve the level of growth necessary to overcome the current economic crisis.

The German government and President Obama have explicitly pledged their support for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). The political will to conclude a comprehensive economic agreement is clearly visible in both the EU and the US. Germany should establish itself as a primary actor on behalf of the EU in negotiations, ensuring that all complex topics stay on the table and thus providing a chance for a truly comprehensive agreement. I simply do not think it is productive to exclude specific content.

TTIP presents a unique chance to unite two of the largest economic areas on Earth to the benefit of the people and companies on both sides of the Atlantic – and even in other parts of the world. We should seize this opportunity to work together and help this vision become a reality.

So let us work together for an even better future for the transatlantic partnership, one characterized by increased business confidence, improved business conditions and even better business relationships for US and German companies, not to mention a generous portion of shared economic success!

Wishing you a happy 4th of July,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bernhard Mattes".

Bernhard Mattes

President

AmCham Germany