



# USEU SNAPSHOTS

## WORKING TOGETHER, SHARING INTERESTS

(A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE U.S. MISSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION)



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Welcome to the first issue of our USEU newsletter. The United States and the European Union work together daily on the hundreds of issues that comprise the bilateral and global Transatlantic Agenda. We also share important moments of cultural and educational exchange. Through USEU Snapshots, the U.S. Mission will bring some of the highlights of our multi-faceted relationship and cooperation to our American and European readers. I hope that you will enjoy it.

*Christopher W. Murray, Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.*

### Presidential Inauguration

On January 20th, an enthusiastic crowd of Europeans and Americans gathered at the U.S. Mission to the EU to watch the inauguration of the 44th President of the United States, Barack Hussein Obama.

Photo: U.S. Mission to the EU



### Chargé Murray Speaks at European Parliament on U.S.-EU Relations



L-R: Asmus and Murray at the panel discussion  
| U.S. Mission to the EU

During a panel discussion at the EP on January 29, USEU Chargé d'affaires Christopher Murray exchanged views on "U.S.-EU Cooperation after the U.S. Election" with Alan Seatter, Director of the Directorate General for External Relations (DG RELEX) at the European Commission, Ronald Asmus, Executive Director of the German Marshall Fund of the U.S., and Francisco Millan-Mon, MEP/Rapporteur on EU-U.S. Relations. Murray highlighted the many areas of policy convergence between the Obama administration and the European Union, including the Middle East and global climate change. He also emphasized the need for U.S.-EU cooperation to resolve today's pressing challenges, including Afghanistan and the global financial crisis. The event was organized by the European People's Party and European Democrats at the European Parliament. Over 500 people also watched the discussion on live web-stream.

### Through the Lens of an American Diplomat

European Commission Vice President Gunter Verheugen and U.S. Ambassador to the EU Kristen Silverberg presided over the opening ceremony of American photographer and diplomat Robert Connan's exhibition at the Berlaymont, the European Commission's headquarters, on January 14. Currently Director of the Commercial Service at the U.S. Mission to the EU, Minister Counselor Connan has also served in Jeddah, Johannesburg, Algiers, Stockholm, Kuwait, Rome, Sydney, Baghdad and Paris. His striking images of many lands have been exhibited in Paris, Rome, Stockholm, Kuwait City, Sydney, and Washington, DC, and published in National Geographic, Down East, the Hasselblad Forum and CLAM Magazine.



Photo: U.S. Mission to the EU

### U.S. - EC Joint Delegation Assesses Humanitarian Assistance in Chad



An 11-member team of European Commission and American officials, including from USEU, traveled to Chad from January 25-31 to assess the delivery of humanitarian assistance to refugees and displaced persons. Chad presents a complex humanitarian situation: refugees from Sudan, IDPs from Chad, an international peacekeeping force (EUFOR and UN), political conflict and armed rebel groups in both Chad and Sudan, increasing crime and banditry, a multitude of international organizations and agencies providing assistance, and a backdrop of poverty and few government services. of Chad and local authorities, humanitarian workers and other

U.S. and European Commission (ECHO) officials stand near a United Nations Humanitarian Air Service plane in Chad during a weeklong joint field mission in January. (Photo: Cees Wittebrood)

actors in the field. The team visited camps for refugees and internally-displaced persons (IDPs) and met with officials from the UN and other international organizations, NGOs, the government. They discussed coordination, shrinking humanitarian space, civil-military relations, recruitment of soldiers (including children) from camps, early recovery and transition to development, the role of the state, and other issues of concern. As the world's two largest humanitarian donors, the U.S. Government (State Department and USAID) and the European Commission (ECHO) compiled a joint report to make delivery of humanitarian assistance more effective and efficient.

## Smart Energy for Governments - the U.S. Example

Technical experts on both sides of the Atlantic are working to increase renewable energy capacity -- a goal shared by the United States and the European Union and its member states. The federal government is the largest single energy consumer in the United States and spends more than \$5.8 billion annually on energy. The Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program seeks to reduce energy consumption and green house gas emissions, advance energy efficiency and water conservation, and encourage innovation and new technologies.

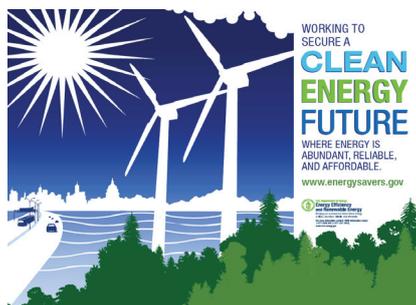


Photo: U.S. Department of Energy

Richard Kidd, the Department's Program Manager visited Brussels recently and spoke to NGOs, think tanks, parliamentarians, and EU, national and local officials to share the U.S. government experience. Kidd laid out the business case for responsible energy management, the investment challenges, the need for underlying legislation, and the key role of public/private partnerships with industry and centers of learning. The benefits of improving energy efficiency of government fleets, buildings, laboratories and other facilities, he said, include saving taxpayer money, enhancing energy security, and reducing environmental impacts, including green house gas emissions.

## “Showcase Europe” Focuses on Green Technology

Showcase Europe, a region-wide trade promotion program of the U.S. Department of Commerce, today concentrates on green building and renewable energy sectors. Spurred by USEU'S Commercial Service (CS) office, this program of match-making and partnering between European and American green technology companies strengthens our shared U.S. and EU commitment to promoting technological innovation and energy efficiency.

According to the Senior Commercial Officer at the USEU, Robert Connan: “Green industries are the future and where we will see significant growth opportunities for both U.S. and European companies in the coming years. We are working now to create a strategy for green building and energy efficiency to find the best way to promote trade in these sectors between the U.S. and EU and to make the most of these opportunities.” Already 15 CS offices in EU member states are working binationally on the green building initiative.



Commercial Service staff counselling green tech companies at AWWA show in Amsterdam Photo: U.S. & Foreign Commercial Service

## Landmarks of New York Exhibit

Guests of the Europe Society, The Centre, and USEU celebrated the opening of the “Landmarks of New York”



Photo: U.S. Mission to the EU

photography exhibition at The Centre headquarters in Brussels. Sponsored by the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs in cooperation with the Historic Landmarks Preservation Center of New York, this exhibition focuses

on the preservation of “landmarks,” public or privately owned properties that possess special historical, cultural or aesthetic value. Landmark laws typically prohibit alteration, reconstruction or otherwise changing without the approval of a specially appointed landmarks commission or similar body.

The photographs portray buildings that range from iconic office skyscrapers like the Chrysler and Flatiron Buildings to the New York Public Library and Ellis Island Immigration Center.