



# USEU SNAPSHOTS

WORKING TOGETHER, SHARING INTERESTS  
(A NEWSLETTER FROM THE U.S. MISSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION)



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## Independence Day and the Values We Share

“Direct Hit” band courtesy of US Air Force Europe, Sembach, Germany (photo: F. Moris)



The annual Independence Day celebration was a “tri-Mission” event on July 2, highlighting that Brussels is home to three official U.S. representations: the U.S. Mission to the European Union, the U.S. Mission to NATO, and the U.S. Embassy to the Kingdom of Belgium. In his greeting, Chris Murray, Chargé d’Affaires at the U.S. Mission to the EU, said, “Europe and America, as partners, are committed to the values that we [Americans] ascribe to the Fourth of July: individual freedom, the rule of law, freedom of speech, a vote that truly counts, human rights, recourse to justice, and the right to privacy. These are values that touch, directly, every citizen of the world.” This year more than 500 guests gathered from the 27 member states of the EU and 28 members of NATO, and from Belgian government, non-profit,

academic, and international media organizations. Many of the guests reminisced about their own special relationships with the United States: studies at our universities, work at military, diplomatic, or media postings, business exchanges, or tourists traveling Route 66 (one with a special “Route 66” tie to prove it!).

## The Case for Green Buildings



3 PNC Plaza: the world’s largest [LEED-](#)certified green building (photo: PNC)

On June 16-18, the U.S. Mission hosted Gary Saulson, Director of Real Estate at PNC Bank and a leading U.S. expert on green building financing. Saulson presented “The Case for Green Buildings” June 16 at The Centre, a think tank in Brussels, sharing the PNC experience with a broad cross-section of European and American private and public sector representatives. Given the high priority the transatlantic partners have given to climate change, environmental technologies and green building in particular, the audience listened attentively to Saulson’s entertaining history of his involvement in developing green buildings while at PNC Bank over the last decade, from his initial skepticism to his eventual conversion into a leading green building advocate in the United States. He emphasized that, while green building benefits the environment, PNC Bank also sees green building as good for business and ultimately a profitable strategy.

PNC, based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has developed more certified green buildings than any company in the world. Pittsburgh will host the G-20 summit in September, is a green building leader in the United States and is the location of the first green certified convention center in the world, the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, also the main venue for the summit.

## Dialogue on EU-U.S. Development Cooperation

Visiting officials from the State Department, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) held informal technical discussions with EU counterparts in Brussels on June 15-16 about practical ways to advance a renewed EU-U.S. dialogue on development. Both sides offered presentations on food security, regional economic integration in Africa and the development aspects of climate change. Topics such as aid effectiveness and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) also figured in the conversation. At the conclusion of the meetings, officials from the outgoing Czech EU presidency underlined the importance of continued progress in advancing the transatlantic dialogue on development while those from the incoming Swedish presidency affirmed their continued commitment to the process.

## ECHO Hosts Stakeholders for New Strategic Framework for Food Assistance

EC Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) held a day-long discussion, June 16, on its new strategic framework for delivering food assistance, with the participation of EU member state donor organizations, NGOs, and think tanks. Patterson Brown from the U.S. Mission to the EU's USAID Office represented the U.S. ECHO will use input from participants to shape a final version of the paper and accompanying action plan.



### Acting Head of Africa Bureau Visits Brussels

Earl Gast, Acting head of USAID's Africa Bureau, visited Brussels on June 12, en route to Sudan. While in Brussels, he met with counterparts from ECHO, EuropeAid and DG-DEV. Conversations covered a number of issues related to sub-Saharan Africa. Gast found it especially useful to exchange views and gain a better understanding of European Commission perspectives on Sudan prior to his own field trip to the region.



Acting Commissioner Ahern and Director General Fujioka signing agreement (photo: CBP/D.Dolan)

## Japan, U.S. Align Security Standards for Cross-Border Business

In a ceremony in Brussels June 26, Japan and the United States signed a mutual recognition arrangement that aligns security standards in international trade partnership programs critical to both countries. The arrangement recognizes compatibility between Japanese and U.S. cargo security programs. The Director General of Japan Customs and Tariff Bureau (CTB), Hiroshi Fujioka, and U.S. Customs Border Protection (CBP) Acting Commissioner, Jayson P. Ahern, agreed to common standards in Japan's Partners Authorized Economic Operators program and the U.S.'s Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) program.

The arrangement acknowledges that CTB and CBP will accept the security status of each other's programs. It is expected to result in cost savings to both CTB and CBP because the number of supply chain security validations that each customs administration has to conduct will be reduced.

"This arrangement is yet another sign of the level of trust and respect we have for one of our most important economic partners," said CBP Acting Commissioner Ahern. The goal of these arrangements is to link the various international industry partnership programs, so that together they create a unified and sustainable security standard that can assist in securing and facilitating global cargo trade. *Information on the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism program can be found on the CBP Web site: [C-TPAT: Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism](#)*