

**Europe Day Statement by Georges Faber
Consul General of Luxembourg in New York**

On the 9th of May 1950, French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman proposed a partnership of European countries, called the “European Coal and Steel Community”. The idea was that those resources, that had long been used to wage war, would become instruments for reconciliation and peace. There were six founding members: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

The partnership was such a success that a few years later it expanded to include other areas of responsibility and many more countries. It resulted in the longest period of peace that Europe had ever known. Today we know it as the “European Union”, encompassing 25 countries (soon to be 27) and 450 million people.

May 9th has become known as “Europe Day”, a chance to celebrate the creation of the European Union and at the same time recognize the strong bonds we have established with nations around the world that share our dedication to peace and prosperity.

On the occasion of Europe Day, Consul General Georges Faber issued the following statement in recognition of the special relationship between the European Union and the United States of America:

The European Union (EU) is the world’s most successful invention for advancing peace and prosperity. Following two world wars that claimed over 75 million lives in a single generation, it was created to prevent deadly conflict from ever again engulfing Europe. Since creation of the EU a half century ago, Europe has enjoyed the longest period of peace in its history.

The EU is more than just a trade organization or a common market; it is a guarantee of democracy, freedom, justice, and human rights. Nations cannot remain a member of the EU if they do not respect these fundamental values.

The EU is a unique institution in which Member States voluntarily cede some elements of national sovereignty to carry out common policies and governance, and provide for their joint work to be processed through a democratically elected European Parliament. There is no parallel for this unique institution anywhere else in the world.

The EU is the single largest economic body in the world; its Member States account for almost a third of the entire global economy (31% of global GDP). The \$2.5 trillion EU-US transatlantic economy represents the largest, most integrated and longest-lasting economic relationship in the world, supporting 14 million jobs (including 7 million in the US). European countries represent the four largest sources of jobs created by foreign countries in the United States. The EU generates three out of every four overseas dollars invested directly in US jobs and businesses.

The US-EU economic relationship dwarfs America's economic ties with China. European investment in Texas alone exceeds all US investment in China and Japan put together.

California alone exported \$20.4 billion in goods to Europe in 2003. That exceeded total US exports to all OPEC member countries. US companies earn more from their investments in the EU than in the rest of the world combined. Foreign investment is the backbone of the EU-US economic partnership. Trade actually accounts for only about 20% of all transatlantic commerce. EU companies are the single largest foreign investor in 45 of the 50 US states, and rank second in the remaining five. Europe provided 65% of all foreign investment in the US in 2003.

US corporate assets in just one EU Member State – the United Kingdom – are almost equivalent to the combined overseas assets of American companies in Asia, Latin America and the Middle East combined. US companies rely on the European market for more than half of their global foreign profits. Indeed, American companies make three times as much profit from their investment in one EU country, Ireland, than they do from all their investments in China.

The EU imports more agricultural goods from developing countries around the world than does the US, Canada and Japan combined.

The EU is the world's fastest growing democratic body. With the addition of 10 new Member States in May 2004, its land mass grew by 25% and its population increased by 20%. Just imagine if the US had added ten new states in the past decade!

When the EU and the US agree, other countries follow. The EU and the US work together to develop international standards in many different areas. This is the case in development, fighting terrorism and international national crime, advancing trade liberalization, and combating piracy and intellectual property violations. The EU and US are sharing international travel information, implementing tighter controls on financial institutions to prevent funding of terror groups, incorporating biometric identifiers in passports, and implementing new customs procedures to keep weapons and dangerous materials out of the hands of terrorists.

A strong, efficient and prosperous European Union is in the interest of the United States. I sincerely do not believe that are two other entities in the world as interlinked and as close to each other as the United States and the European Union. Of course we have had differences, and we will have differences. But if you share the same values of freedom, democracy, and the rule of law, you always find solutions to your problems. We might sometimes discuss hard, but in the depths of our souls, we know, that when it gets

serious, we can trust each other, like no one else in the world. The US-EU relationship remains the most powerful, the most comprehensive and the most strategic in the world.