

PRESS RELEASE



AmCham EU ‘s *Agenda for Action* and *EU 2020* call for business and government to work together on challenges ahead

Brussels, 25 February 2010 – The American Chamber of Commerce for the European Union held a panel discussing the “EU2020: What does this mean for business?” with Gerard de Graaf, Head of Unit, Strategic Objective Prosperity, European Commission and Žiga Turk, Secretary General, European Council Reflection Group.

De Graaf discussed the specifics of Commission President José Manuel Barroso’s *EU2020* draft and how its success depends on “enough political will in a very difficult environment.”

Mr. de Graaf stated, “Looking ahead to 2020 is not something Europe can do alone. We all need to be on the same boat rowing together. If someone isn’t rowing, we will topple and that’s an issue.”

Turk identified five major challenges for the next decade, including over-abundance of some goods, breaks and shifting tides in the global economy, climate change, an aging population, and the e-commerce revolution. He recommended Europe could positively respond by building on its own economy and embracing e-technology like a “Gutenberg revolution.”

John Vassallo, Chair of the American Chamber of Commerce for the European Union, stated that AmCham EU’s *Agenda for Action* was very much in sync with the *EU 2020* and added, “Business can play a key role in providing new thinking and fresh approaches in building the road toward recovery. Our aim is to strengthen Europe and make it more competitive on the world stage.”

Following the panel, Odile Renaud-Basso, Deputy Chef de Cabinet, President Van Rompuy spoke to fifty AmCham EU members about the new presidential cabinet. Vassallo presented her with AmCham EU’s *Agenda for Action* and predicted a very positive working relationship throughout Van Rompuy’s two and a half year tenure.

AmCham EU speaks for American business committed to Europe on trade investment and competitiveness issues. It aims to ensure a growth orientated business and investment climate in Europe. AmCham EU facilitates the resolution of transatlantic issues that impact business and play a role in creating better understanding of EU & US positions on business matters. Total US investment in Europe amounts to \$702 billion, and currently supports over 4.1 million jobs.

**For more information contact: Anna McNally, Communications Director
Email: anna.mcnally@amchameu.be Direct: +32 (0)2 289 10 16**