

PRESS RELEASE



EU Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn met with AmCham EU to discuss how a culture of innovation can be advanced in Europe

Brussels, 19 February 2010 – On Thursday 18 February AmCham EU welcomed newly appointed EU Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, to discuss measures Europe can take to become more competitive within the global business economy.

“I want Europe to be a vibrant innovation economy, a true ‘Innovation Union’, where companies will want to do business and invest,” Ms. Geoghegan-Quinn said.

“I fully recognise that we have strong global competition from China and India. It will be a tough battle, but it is one that I am prepared to fight, and which I believe we can win, as long as we work together.”

AmCham EU members outlined the obstacles to and opportunities for innovation in the areas of healthcare, transport, energy and nanotechnologies with the Commissioner. This was one of Ms. Geoghegan-Quinn’s first speeches since taking office 11 February. She emphasised her commitment to close cooperation with AmCham EU and its importance as an active member of the business world.

“The United States of America is Europe’s most important science and technology partner. It is the top third country in the EU’s Framework Programme, and we have strategic partnerships in specific areas, such as the ‘EC-US Task Force on Bio-technology,’” the Commissioner stated. “I am keen for these activities to be extended in the next 5 years. Staying open to the world is essential.”

For further information on AmCham EU: www.amchameu.eu

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.

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