

Implementation of the Economic Initiative of the June 2005 EU-US Summit: Joint EU-US Work Programme

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1. Promoting regulatory and standards cooperation

“Our aim is to build effective mechanisms to promote better quality regulation, minimize unnecessary regulatory divergences to facilitate transatlantic trade and investment and increase consumer confidence in the transatlantic market” (2005 EU-US Economic Initiative)

Objectives:

- Implementation of the 2005 Roadmap for EU-US Regulatory Cooperation (including pursuit of the identified fifteen sectoral initiatives, establishment of the EC-OMB Dialogue, identification of resources and mechanisms to support exchanges of EU and US regulatory experts; and consideration of possible new regulatory cooperation activities); and
- Initiation of a program of events for the high level Regulatory Cooperation Forum called for by the 2005 Summit.

Specific Activities:

a. Implementation of Regulatory Cooperation activities between European Commission and US authorities according to the 2005 Roadmap

(i) Sectoral dialogues with individual work plans/agendas in 15 specific areas: Pursue work on: Pharmaceuticals, Automobile Safety, Information and Communications Technology Standards in Regulations, Cosmetics, Consumer Product Safety, Consumer Protection Enforcement Cooperation, Unfair Commercial Practices, Nutritional Labelling, Food Safety, Marine Equipment, Eco-Design, Chemicals, Energy Efficiency, Telecommunications and Radiocommunications Equipment, Electromagnetic Compatibility, and Medical Devices.

(ii) Horizontal EC-OMB dialogue: Pursue dialogue on general regulatory policies and practices related to better regulation, such as impact assessment methodologies, risk assessment methodologies and public consultation. First meeting: 28-30 September in Washington.

(iii) EU-US Experts Exchange Programme: Promote targeted exchanges of European and US regulatory experts and to identify resources to support such exchanges.

b. Initiation of a work program of the high-level Regulatory Cooperation Forum as described in the annex of the Summit Economic Initiative

Platform for activities related to “how we cooperate” on:

- cross-cutting regulatory cooperation topics: (a) of a general interest to regulators, such as, identifying an agreed set of best cooperative practices (“what works, what does not, what can be improved”) to be attached to the voluntary guidelines; promoting arrangements to support the sharing of confidential information under regulatory dialogues; and identifying anticipated regulatory needs; and/or (b) that are the responsibility of multiple regulatory authorities.
- future cooperative agenda: (a) exchanges of annual Commission and US regulatory work programmes; and (b) facilitating the implementation of regulatory dialogues.

We have identified the initial high-level Regulatory Cooperation Forum events as:

- 1) Conference on Good Regulatory Practices – early 2006, hosted by the European Commission in Brussels;
- 2) Best Cooperative Practices and U.S. and EC Regulatory Workplans – spring 2006, hosted by the USG in Washington D.C.

Participants: Participation will vary depending on the context of the specific event. Government officials should be sufficiently senior and informed to create the necessary political impetus to advance regulatory dialogue. Relevant Commission and US regulators, including participation from US Agencies and Community Regulatory Agencies, should be actively involved in the process. Representatives of Member States and of US States should be invited to events, as appropriate. The involvement of interested stakeholders is important and should be encouraged.

c. Promotion of Regulatory Cooperation outside the 2005 Roadmap

Consideration should be given to expanding the spectrum of EU-US regulatory cooperation activities, and possible links with Forum activities, where appropriate.

Measuring Progress:

Regulators will autonomously set their objectives and assess progress. Compiled work plans, jointly agreed upon by relevant European and US regulators, will constitute priorities for regulatory cooperation to be submitted annually at the EU-US Summit.

Defining Goals for the 2006 Summit:

Based on the objectives set by the regulators, progress achieved on the implementation of the 2005 Regulatory Cooperation Roadmap and the high level Regulatory Cooperation Forum, the 2006 Summit should encourage work on the future priorities for EU-US regulatory cooperation.

Timelines:

Agreed timelines should be developed for activities under the 2005 Regulatory Cooperation Roadmap and for the Forum.

Contacts:

The two sides have identified and exchanged a consolidated list of relevant contacts for regulatory cooperation activities under the 2005 Regulatory Cooperation Roadmap and the Forum. This contact list should be maintained.