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**EU and US discuss multilateral, bilateral trade ties ahead of Washington Summit**

BRUSSELS – With trade flows across the Atlantic worth around \$2.15 billion (€1.7 billion) every day, EU Trade Commissioner Catherine Ashton and US Trade Representative Susan Schwab met in Brussels today to renew their commitment to the early conclusion of the world trade talks and discuss a number of bilateral trade issues, including beef hormones, poultry, and REACH.

Following the meeting, Commissioner Ashton said: "With leadership and determination, a Doha deal is within our grasp as the details of a final agreement could be agreed within weeks. The EU and the US will continue to provide leadership to maintain the openness that has brought growth and prosperity in the past decades. It's very important that the G20 meeting in Washington on 15 November send a clear signal to negotiators to achieve this objective."

USTR Schwab said, "At this critical time it is all the more important that we not only avoid retrenchment in market opening, but move ahead with an ambitious and balanced Doha Round that creates new trade flows and generates economic opportunities worldwide."

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