

Solicitation to EU & US stakeholders

The European Commission and the U.S. Government share the goal of reducing excessive regulatory costs, unjustified regulatory differences, and unnecessary red tape while respecting each other's right to protect public health, safety, welfare, and the environment. Promoting this goal will help businesses to grow, create jobs, and compete globally. Enhanced cooperation will also help our governments to achieve their regulatory objectives in a more effective and efficient manner.

The challenges posed by efforts to improve regulatory cooperation between the European Union (EU) and the United States should not be underestimated. But there are reasons to be optimistic. Significant progress has been made in the High Level Regulatory Cooperation Forum (HLRCF) and also recently in the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC), where the EU and the United States cooperate on future regulation affecting new and innovative growth markets and technologies. As we continue in the High Level Working Group on Jobs and Growth (HLWG) to examine the possibility of negotiations on horizontal and sectoral regulatory issues, we seek to continue to make progress through the HLRCF and the TEC with the help of additional information from the public.

The European Commission and the U.S. Government invite your views on how to promote greater transatlantic regulatory compatibility generally. We also invite you to share your concrete ideas on how greater compatibility could be achieved in a particular economic sector by providing detailed information for that sector, including:

- names of the relevant regulatory agencies in the EU and the United States;
- citations to the relevant regulatory and/or statutory provisions for each jurisdiction (this is not meant to exclude potential cooperation in areas where neither jurisdiction has yet adopted such provisions);
- a description of the regulatory differences to be addressed (including any information on negative effects of these differences and on the entities or stakeholders affected by them);
- possible solutions for bridging these differences (including both the substance of the solution – please be as specific as possible -- and the proposed procedure for reaching it);
- any steps that the EU and/or the United States should consider to address horizontal and/or sectoral differences between the two jurisdictions that may be impeding deeper regulatory compatibility in the sector – for example, differences with respect to technical regulations or in our respective approaches to standards; and
- an assessment of the effects of enhanced regulatory compatibility (quantified benefits and costs, if possible, or else qualitative descriptions), the likelihood of these effects occurring, and the time period over which they would occur.

We encourage trade association respondents, where possible, to submit views jointly with counterparts across the Atlantic. Please provide your responses by 31 October 2012. Naturally,

this is without prejudice to the possibility of further developing and supplementing your submission at a later stage.

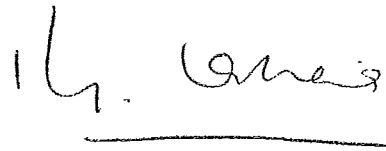
Your detailed input will be most useful when we define our priorities and explore next steps in the HLRCF this year, and it will contribute to the work of the HLWG. It will help us to identify both immediate and longer-term goals and mechanisms to accomplish them. We plan to explore these and other issues at a meeting in the fall involving EU and U.S. regulators, economic policy agencies, and stakeholders, which could take place in the context of the HLRCF.

We are looking forward to your suggestions.


Yours sincerely,



Boris Bershteyn
Acting Administrator
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs



Daniel Calleja Crespo
Director General
Directorate General for Enterprise and
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Jean-Luc Demarty
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Ambassador Miriam Sapiro
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