



Media Note
Office of the Spokesman
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June 19, 2008

Joint Statement by the U.S. - Greece Economic and Commercial Cooperation Commission

Below is the text of a joint statement released by the United States and the Republic of Greece following the meeting on June 19 of the United States – Greece Economic and Commercial Cooperation Commission.

On June 19, Greek and U.S. government officials held in-depth discussions on a wide-ranging list of topics related to economic, commercial and business relations between the two countries. The delegations discussed opportunities to deepen bilateral trade and investment, energy issues, cooperation on global assistance and intellectual property rights, among other topics. One of the overall objectives of the discussions was to ensure that U.S.-Greek bilateral economic relations match the strength of the political relationship.

Building on a shared commitment to Balkan stability and on Greece's expanding economic presence in the region, the two sides have rapidly strengthened their regional assistance cooperation. This is evidenced by the signing today of a Memorandum of Understanding between USAID and Hellenic Aid on sustainable tourism. The delegations stressed their desire to work together in order to increase bilateral trade and investment between our two countries, and developed strategies to achieve this.

The Greek delegation was chaired by Theodore Skylakakis, Secretary General for International Economic Relations and Development Cooperation for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The U.S. delegation was led by Matthew Bryza, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Paul Dyck, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Europe, and Thomas Fleetwood Mefford, Deputy Assistant Administrator of USAID.

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