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Our Thanks

The World Affairs Councils of America wishes to express its deepest gratitude to the European Union for its support of this Leadership Mission to Germany.

We also owe much gratitude to delegation leader Michael C. Maibach, President and CEO of the European – American Business Council for his insight and help in planning an informative and productive mission. Thank you to Amb. Klaus Scharioth and the staff of the German Embassy in Washington, DC for their helpful suggestions. We also thank Clare Schillinger of the Aspen Institute and Astrid Ziebarth of the German Marshall Fund for their advice.

Our first Leadership Mission to Germany was a success. The breadth and depth of the meetings could not have been better, and we very much appreciate the candor and openness that was demonstrated in all our encounters. We have gained a great insight into the achievements and future challenges of the Germany and the European Union, and we look forward to deepening our relationship with long-lasting partnerships and projects for future cooperation.

The members of our delegation have pledged to disseminate locally what they have learned, to try to return to Germany, either as a part of another high-level delegation or as individuals in the future, to encourage follow-up trips to Germany by our 87 World Affairs Councils around the country, and to seek to raise the level of programming on Germany and the European Union throughout the world affairs council system.

They are pleased to put forward this trip report as a statement of thanks to the sponsors of this trip. Many thanks!

Best regards,

Barbara A. Propes
President

WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCILS OF AMERICA

ENGAGING GRASSROOTS AMERICA IN WORLD AFFAIRS

Our mission is to:

- Empower citizens to participate in the national debate on world affairs
- Build citizen support for American engagement in the world
- Stimulate communities to interact effectively in the global economy
- Help people relate their local concerns to global issues
- Improve international education locally, nationally, and internationally
- Foster international interests in America's young people
- Build alliances with counterpart organizations locally, nationally, and internationally
- Increase council professionalism by disseminating best practices

The Foreign Policy Association (FPA) and World Affairs Councils were part of the same system from 1918 until the early 1950s. The FPA began informally in the spring of 1918 with a small group surrounding Woodrow Wilson and included journalist Paul Kellogg. The initial group was concerned that with the end of World War I, Americans would choose an isolationist foreign policy over one of engagement. By 1947, this vision evolved into one of a national organization based on a network of independent community councils.

In 1986, the National Council of World Affairs Organizations (NCWAO) national office was established in Washington, DC. This office evolved into the World Affairs Councils of America - a commonwealth of 87 World Affairs Councils serviced by a national office that provides resources, as well as serving as the central agency of correspondence, and information exchange. Each year the WACA supports the grassroots development of the council network. Our national conference allows policymakers to interact with World Affairs Council members in Washington, DC. Annually, the WACA hosts and works with local World Affairs Councils on the national championship Academic WorldQuest competition. The WACA also serves an important role representing the council network to the world at large, including foreign diplomats and the US State Department.

While its structure may have evolved since 1918, WACA's goal of building a vital and diverse constituency within the American public on international affairs remains intact today.

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87 Councils * 535,000 Members and Participants

ALABAMA
Alabama WAC (Montgomery)

ALASKA
Alaska WAC (Anchorage)
Juneau WAC

ARIZONA
WAC of Arizona (Scottsdale)

CALIFORNIA
Los Angeles WAC
WAC of Inland S. California
(Riverside)
WAC of Monterey Bay Area
WAC of N. California (San
Francisco)
WAC of Orange County
WAC of San Diego
WAC of Sonoma County
WAC of the Desert (Palm Springs)
WAC of Central California Coast

COLORADO
Colorado Springs WAC
Denver WAC
Foothills WAC

CONNECTICUT
WAC of Connecticut (Hartford)
World Affairs Forum (Stamford)

DELAWARE
WAC of Wilmington

DISTRICT of COLUMBIA
WAC of Washington, DC

FLORIDA
WAC of Jacksonville
Naples Council on World Affairs
WAC of the Florida Palm Beaches

GEORGIA
Savannah Council on World Affairs
Southern Center for Int'l Studies
(Atlanta)

HAWAII
Pacific and Asian Affairs Council

ILLINOIS
Chicago Council on Foreign
Relations
Peoria Area WAC
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(Springfield)
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(Jacksonville)
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Island)

INDIANA
Indiana Council on World Affairs

IOWA
WAC of the Quad Cities
(Davenport)

KENTUCKY
WAC of Kentucky and S. Indiana

LOUISIANA
WAC of New Orleans

MAINE
WAC of Maine (Portland)

MASSACHUSETTS
WorldBoston
WAC of W. Massachusetts
(Springfield)

MICHIGAN
Detroit Council on World Affairs
Great Lakes WAC
Int'l Affairs Forum (Traverse City)
WAC of W. Michigan (Grand
Rapids)

MINNESOTA
Minnesota International Center
(Minneapolis)

MISSOURI
Int'l Relations Council (Kansas
City)
WAC of St. Louis

MONTANA
WAC of Montana

NEVADA
Las Vegas WAC

NEW HAMPSHIRE
N.H. Council on World Affairs
(Concord)

NEW MEXICO
Santa Fe Council on Int'l. Relations

NEW YORK
Buffalo-Niagara WorldConnect
Foreign Policy Association
WAC of Long Island
WAC of Mid-Hudson Valley

NORTH CAROLINA
WAC of Charlotte
Triad WAC (Greensboro)
WAC of E. North Carolina
(Greenville)
International Affairs Council
(Raleigh)

WAC of W. North Carolina
(Asheville)

OHIO
Akron Council on World Affairs
Cleveland Council on World Affairs
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Dayton Council on World Affairs
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OREGON
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PENNSYLVANIA
WAC of Philadelphia
WAC of Pittsburgh
WAC of Greater Valley Forge
WAC of Reading and Berks County

RHODE ISLAND
WAC of Rhode Island

SOUTH CAROLINA
Columbia World Affairs Council
Charleston Foreign Affairs Forum
WAC of Hilton Head

SOUTH DAKOTA
South Dakota WAC (Brookings)

TENNESSEE
WAC of Tennessee (Cookeville)

TEXAS
Houston WAC
WAC of Greater Dallas - Ft. Worth
WAC of San Antonio
WAC of South Texas (Corpus
Christi)

UTAH
Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy

VERMONT
Vt. Council on World Affairs
(Colchester)
Windham WAC of Vermont

VIRGINIA
WAC of Greater Richmond
WAC of Greater Hampton Roads

WASHINGTON
Olympia WAC
WAC of Puget Sound (Seattle)
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Foreign Policy Research Institute	Turkish Business Confederation (TUSIAD)
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International Center for Journalists	United States-Indonesia Society

Leadership Missions

What is a leadership mission?

A leadership mission is an overseas fact-finding visit to a city, country, or international organization by a national leadership delegation of the World Affairs Council movement.

The World Affairs Councils of America is the largest non-profit international affairs organization in the United States with 87 councils around the country, national and international affiliates, and 484,000 members and participants.

What is the purpose?

The main purposes are to get to know the people, the issues, and the problems of the city, the country or the organization first-hand and to establish a much greater connection between the country and a well-informed and influential part of the American public. These trips are for meeting and discussion purposes, not for sightseeing.

Better knowledge of the host country and its issues means better programs back home at the local council level. These include country-specific information channeled through more speaker invitations, radio and television programs, council publications, curriculum materials, teachers' workshops, business roundtables, conferences, and travel programs.

The world affairs council movement prides itself on independence. It wishes to confront the world's issues directly, not through the prisms of official foreign policy, interest group ideology, or the national media. The movement strongly believes in people-to-people diplomacy and is one of the preeminent organizations of its kind in the United States.

Who goes?

Delegations are generally made up of 10 national leaders of the council system, i.e. presidents of councils, national board members, local chairpersons, program directors, and local board members. Trips usually last between 7 and 10 days.

Who pays?

The host government or organization covers the expenses inside the country. The hosts sometimes pay the international airfare to the country as well. Hosts have been the ministry of foreign affairs, the national information service, local foundations, or local nonprofit organizations.

What do the delegations do?

Delegations hold a wide variety of discussions and make numerous site visits. Typically, discussions include a session at the foreign ministry and often with defense, education, economics, privatization, and other field experts as well. Commonly, delegations meet with the media, business associations, think tanks, foundations, and universities as well. Sessions are largely short briefings followed by extensive question-and-answer periods. Site visits often include industrial facilities, military installations, development projects, and rural settings. Delegations are usually hosted once by the American Embassy and sometimes pay a courtesy call on the national president.

How do the hosts benefit?

What the delegation learns is communicated to the members throughout the United States through a trip report, local programming, and council conferences and workshops.

Local programming on the host country has increased through 80 world affairs councils as a result of each tour. Perspectives gained on tours appear in publications, on radio and television, at conferences, in national foreign policy discussion publications, and in educational materials which we prepare for classrooms.

These visits also lead to the development of long-term working relationships between counterpart organizations in the host country and the World Affairs Councils. The working relationships produce joint projects, conferences, professional exchanges, speakers' visits to the United States, intern exchanges, publications, or the like. The tours sometimes lead to increased business interest from some of the 2,000 corporations that financially support the world affairs council movement around the country.

National delegation visits often then lead to follow-up by local councils. Many local councils have educational travel programs for their members. Leadership missions often start a series of trips from around the council world. For local trips, the travelers normally are paying their own way.

What countries or organizations have hosted study tours?

Over the last ten years, the world affairs council system has taken leadership delegations to China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Singapore, the Philippines, India, Turkey, Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Morocco, Lebanon, Brazil, Canada, NATO, the European Union, Poland, Kuwait, Egypt, and Tunisia. Several countries have issued repeat invitations.

Leadership Mission Delegation

Michael Maibach

President & CEO, European American Business Council
Washington DC

Dixie Anderson

Executive Director, World Affairs Council of Western Michigan
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Dellashon Di Cresce

Program Manager, Detroit World Affairs Council
Michigan

Mimi Gregory

President, Naples Council on World Affairs
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William Kramer

Financial Advisor – Merrill Lynch
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Melissa Lawrence

Director of Education, World Affairs Councils of America
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Margaret Lonzetta

Vice President, Education, World Affairs Council of Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania

Allen Macomber

Senior Risk Manager (retired), Global Finance Group
Council for International Relations of Santa Fe, New Mexico

Michael Phillip

Vice President/Senior Financial Advisor, Merrill Lynch
WACA – California Central Coast

Martin Pottle

President, Martin Thomas International
World Affairs Council of Rhode Island

Agenda

Monday, April 30

9:00 a.m. DHL Technologie & Innovation Management
2:00pm Walking tour of Köln
3:30 p.m. Amerika Haus Köln
Dinner Brauerei Zur Malzmühle

Tuesday, May 1

9:45 a.m. Tour of Dom Cathedral and Romano - Germanic Museum
Afternoon Travel to Berlin

Wednesday, May 2

10:00 – 11:30 a.m. German Institute for International and Security Affairs
Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP)
Benjamin Schreer and Stormy-Annika Mildner
12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Ecologic (environmental think tank)
Climate, Water, Energy, and EU External Policy
Andreas Kraemer, Aaron Best, Camilla Bausch
3:00 p.m. German Federal Foreign Office
Ulrich Brandenburg, Deputy Political Director
4:30 p.m. Federal Chancellery
Rolf Nikel, Deputy National Security Advisor

Thursday, May 3

7:50 a.m. Breakfast meeting with BDI (German Industry)
10:30 a.m. German Federal Foreign Office
Karsten Voigt, Office of German-US Relations
2:00 p.m. German Marshall Fund
Constanze Stelzenmüller, Office Director

4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Aspen Institute Berlin
German Foreign and Economic Policy

7:00 p.m. Verlag Der Tagesspiegel (newspaper)
discussion on Transatlantic Relations
Clemens Wergin, Editorial Writer/Political Book Editor

Friday, May 4

9:00 a.m U.S. Embassy
Issues in US – German Relations
John Koenig, Charge d’ Affaires

1:00 p.m. Arrive Dresden

3:30- 5:00 pm Tour of Volkswagen, The Transparent Factory

Leave Dresden for Berlin

Saturday, May 5

Return to the U.S.

Overview of Germany

By: Dixie Anderson

Fields and fields of rapeseed (Why? Biofuels!). Windmill farms dotting the countryside. Innovation marvels – the perfection of German engineering (the DHL Innovation Center, The Volkswagen Automobile Plant). Trains and planes exactly on time. The best beer this side of . . . well, *the best beer anywhere!* Roman Empire ruins right under your feet. Haunting images of World War II: Dresden, now almost rebuilt from the devastation of one night; haunting images of the Cold War: a cobblestone path through the streets of Berlin, marking where the Wall had been. Bits of the Wall still there, graffiti-streaked and awful.

This is the Germany we visited in April and early May. A country very much looking ahead, even resolutely so, convinced climate change is the largest issue and determined to do something about it (and why do we all drive Hummers in the States? It would seem we do . . .). But looking back occasionally – how can you not, when you see bullet holes and Holocaust reminders and church spires damaged by the Allied bombs? And viewing Checkpoint Charley is still chilling.

So what does one takeaway of Germany? This is what we will remember: A good friend to the United States. A government responsive to our officials. Think tanks addressing global issues, thoughtful and open with us. A countryside, green and lovely, sprinkled with tiny villages. White asparagus season (marvelous!). A capital city, vibrant, exciting, looking ahead. A Medieval city – Cologne - with a Gothic spire reaching to the Heavens, existing since before Roman times, reminding us of the rich, long history of Germany.

And for me, a descendent of Jaegers and Muellers, hearing German spoken at home and still using my Grandpa Otto's sauerbraten recipe, I felt I had come home.

Tour of DHL Innovation Center

Chairperson: Michael Phillip

Rapporteur: Martin K. Pottle

Prior to visiting this brand new facility (DHL is among the top five specialized delivery services in the world), the WACA delegation expected it to be an interesting, but not fully relevant, tour of a shipping facility.

How wrong we were!

This “monolithic company turned into a major global player” (their words) and owners of the privatized mail system in Germany as well as the Deutsche Postbank, opened a new “state of the art” facility just outside of Cologne in order to research, promote and create new approaches for faster, more flexible and ecologically sound logistics. They profess to be the leaders and innovators in this field. The size of the DHL component alone is evidenced by impressive figures: a fleet of 420 planes spanning the globe, 7,600 vehicles, 170,000 employees and 1,800,000,000 deliveries each year in more than 220 countries.

Things started off with an overview of DHL and its affiliate companies, followed by one of the most enlightening (read: humorous, but informational) corporate films the delegation had ever seen. In a word, the film told the DHL story as well as the complexities of logistics in deliveries in a James Bond-ish presentation - complete with a suave, handsome government agent, his gorgeous wife-to-be, lots of action and scenic locales, and a slew of villains.

Point made. The world depends on quick, accurate and dependable delivery of goods, and as the world becomes smaller, greater logistical solutions and alternatives must be found.

Visit Turns Interactive

From the conference room we entered the multi-media showcase that comprises almost the entire building, replete with screens, trucks, conveyors, maps, parcels, buttons, lights, and huge displays for a most unusual, high-tech, station-to-station tour. Thus, our WACA delegation was presented with a fascinating glimpse of the future and how logistics, and hopefully DHL, may become a key player in many aspects of our lives and business, handling goods, products, packages, production processes, geo-data, and route optimization.

The U.S. connection was made complete as our hosts told us of their close ties with MIT, labs in the US, and relationships with some of the world's pre-eminent companies such as SAP, Intel and IBM. What was most impressive was the company's penchant to become a good environmental neighbor, with soon-to-come "green" services, fleets of eco-friendly vans, trucks, and convenient self-serve package drop-off and pickup centers coming soon to malls, company lobbies, airports and other facilities.

Case Study Brings It All Into Focus

One simple case study explained it all – what DHL does as the professed forerunner in logistics innovation and management and where industry, with JIT (just in time), stands today and will be headed tomorrow.

That case study focused on an Audi automobile door. Prior to DHL, Audi, at least at their A6 plant in Germany, bought hundreds of parts from dozens and dozens of suppliers for just one car door. DHL naturally shipped most of the parts. Then, at the Audi car assembly facility, the car manufacturer assembles the parts and installed the door(s).

Enter DHL, with a cost-saving and enterprising solution. Why not, asked DHL of Audi, have us collect all the door parts from all Audi suppliers? Then, why not have us save double or triple handling of the parts by letting DHL actually do the door assembly work? Finally, DHL will deliver the completed doors JIT to the Audi plant assembly area.

Audi agreed. Now, hundreds of parts from dozens of suppliers as well as car doors in dozens of colors and various configurations, are fully assembled by DHL in their facilities and delivered to the Audi car assembly facility sixty or so miles away. With the mandate that the specific door

for a specific car coming down the line had to match, with a “window” of only 10 minutes to spare, the system is both efficient and beneficial for all parties involved.

This may very well be the future, notes DHL: controlling logistics to pull goods together, doing the work required to save customers money, and getting the assembled goods to the final destination. DHL was quick to point out that the target ten minute delivery window is attained by using satellites and computer feeds to provide drivers with alternate routes in the event of heavy traffic, an accident, or other potential delays.

Other segments of the tour and presentations included alternatives and/or improvements to current product “reading”, identification, tracking and movement, with things like RFID – radio frequency identification – that very well may replace bar codes and UPC symbols, “Global Flow” communications and shipping containers that not only determine payload, condition and position, but also control temperatures, and what DHL touts as their forward thinking to implement Green Logistics. Back to the Audi case study, the move by DHL to become more than a delivery service, providing a host of value added services.

Meeting at Amerika Haus

Matthew G. Boyse, US Consul General

Constance Colding Jones, Director, Amerika Haus Köln

Dr. Herbert Ferger, General Executive Manager, Cologne Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Frieder Wolf, International Affairs, Mayor’s Office

Chair: Martin Pottle

Rapporteur: Bill Kramer

Some 40 Amerika Houses were established after WWII to explain the United States to German citizens and to serve American citizens living in Germany. There are over 600 American companies currently in Germany. There are only about 6 Amerika Houses left in operation and these will be eventually closed. It was mentioned that part of every business strategy in Germany envisions an investment in America.

Germany is a decentralized country, with the individual states having a great deal of autonomy. The state that includes Cologne, Bonn and Dusseldorf has companies such as the German version of the Wall Street Journal, Deutsche Welle, and the European Ford headquarters. The Cologne district is also the “capital” of Islam in Germany, with one third of all German Muslims living here. Much of the discussion focused on the demographics in Germany, including the age of the population and the number of Muslim immigrants.

When talking about the Chamber of Commerce, we discovered that all businesses must belong to the local Chamber. The Chamber does not serve as a better business bureau but has three missions. They lobby government authorities, provide necessary services to their members, and are self regulating. One of the important functions of the chamber is to provide the apprenticeship exam.

Schooling in Germany is compulsory and only 10% of students drop out before graduation. The problem is not the drop-out rate, but rather that many students graduate without the proper skills. One of the challenges facing the system is that around age eleven, students must decide on whether they will pursue a university or vocational focus. Frieder Wolf made the comment that he felt that eleven is too early to make such a decision.

Unemployment in Cologne is around 11% and a rate of 9% in the entire country. Unemployment has been decreasing slowly and is a problem mainly in the big cities, but less so in the south of the country. This is partly true because the North was highly industrialized before the war and many do not have the proper skills to work in today's service economy. Recently, the retirement age was raised to 67 to help the government system survive, but many people will retire sooner at a reduced rate. Everyone in Germany has health coverage even if they cannot pay the premiums. The quality of health care is very good. There is no need for malpractice insurance in Germany, as there is very little litigation involving medical professionals.

We had an interesting discussion involving maternity leave in Germany. We were surprised to learn that a woman's job must be kept for her for up to three years while she is on maternity leave. During the first year of leave, a woman will receive a percentage of her pay and have the option of returning to her job before the three years are up. The challenge this poses for German companies, especially smaller ones was discussed. One challenge is encouraging more women to work in the absence of good child care services.

**Meeting with the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik
(German Institute for International and Security Affairs)**

**Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Research Associate, The Americas
Prof. Dr. Peter Schmidt, Senior Research Associate, EU External Relations
Johannes Thimm, Research Unit, The Americas**

Chair: Mimi Gregory

Rapporteur: Margaret H. Lonzetta

The German Institute for International and Security Affairs is an independent research institute that advises Parliament (Bundestag) and the federal government. In operation since 1965, the SWP is largely federally funded but independent. It is not a spokesperson for the government. SWP has a staff of 130 divided into eight research units, including the Americas, European Security and External Affairs. The organization moved to its Berlin location in 2000 from Munich.

The discussion focused on the EU-US Summit that took place in Washington on April 30, 2007. Economic issues were high on the agenda as the parties sought a framework for transatlantic economic integration. The transatlantic relationship has become diversified; there is no single "blackboard" to look at to assess the strength of this important relationship. There is strong support for a transatlantic marketplace among German companies; Chancellor Merkel is bringing renewed energy to these issues. At the heart of the global economic system is the transatlantic partnership.

Mrs. Merkel's position favors a deepening rather than an enlargement of the EU. The size of member countries and potential members and their voting power was discussed. The subject of Turkey was raised. Germany supports a democratic Turkey but has adopted a "wait and see" approach vis-à-vis its entry into the EU. The "carrot" strategy for Turkey was discussed; will Turkey eventually get tired of this strategy? For the UK and the US, Turkey was always a question of security; for Germany it was a matter of social democratic impact. (The SWP representatives had the opinion that there is very little chance of Turkey entering the EU).

Other April 30 Summit issues that were raised in this meeting were product standards, climate change, the identification of "lighthouse" projects where the US and the EU can work together (patents, intellectual property, R&D), the challenges of terrorism and WMD, strategic dialogue on Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo and Pakistan and energy security. Progress was made on security and defense issues; Germany is not prepared to allow Iran to have nuclear weapons.

Finally, in a discussion of Russia, the German attitude is positive, but there is now a more realistic assessment and critical view. Russia is not perceived as a military threat in Europe, but is considered socially unstable. After her election, Chancellor Merkel altered the priority placed on Russia by visiting the US first and then going to Russia.

**Meeting with Ecologic
Institute for International and European Environmental Policy**

**Andreas Kramer, Director
Dr. Camilla Bausch, Senior Fellow
Aaron Best, Fellow**

Chair: Allen Macomber

Rapporteur: Melissa Lawrence

Ecologic, founded in 1995, is one of the few US-style non-profit think tanks operating within Germany. The goal at Ecologic is to promote environmental policies and sustainable development by working with government institutions to provide the best information possible to lawmakers. Their innovative approach is to not merely study environmental concerns, but to look at how science and economics can work together to create laws that address these concerns.

Recognizing that talks about climate change are irrelevant without the cooperation of the US, Aaron Best works on Transatlantic Policy for Ecologic. In a recent project, they studied transatlantic cooperation at a subnational level, highlighting the important role local government plays within the US to shape policy. Europeans are frustrated with the lack of cooperation on the international issue of climate change from the US Federal Government in Washington, DC and do not understand the many layers of the US Policy making process.

Europe and Germany face many of the same challenges regarding water and energy that we face in the US. In Europe, increasingly, decisions regarding water are not made by a single locality or government, but incorporate the whole of a river basin and those that will be affected by changes to the river. This allows for the whole of the ecological area to be considered.

New ways of meeting energy demands is another top priority of Ecologic. At present, there is no easy answer to providing energy. New technologies on the horizon may make it easier to create a cleaner burning coal by liquefying it to take out the pollutants. This coal shows promise to meet the energy needs of vehicles and homes.

Recently Chancellor Angela Merkel questioned the wisdom of phasing out all of Germany's nuclear energy plants, stressing the need to diversify energy sources. This concern has less to do with the environment and addressing climate change concerns than it does with wanting to avoid dependency on Russia's natural gas to power Germany.

However, Andreas Kraemer stressed that nuclear energy is not a viable alternative. Within the next 50 to 60 years, uranium supplies will be depleted and nuclear energy prices will rise significantly. In order to prevent this, the temptation to use fast breeder cell technology will be great. However, for other geopolitical reasons, Germany can not turn to this technology, as it breaks down the boundaries between military and civilian uses of nuclear technology. This would challenge Germany's credibility in calling for nuclear nonproliferation in other regions of the world.

While there are many challenges in addressing climate change and promoting sustainable development, Mr. Kraemer is encouraged by the recent US – EU joint declaration that the issue needs to be addressed and sees hope for working together.

**Meeting Report for Ulrich Brandenberg, Assistant Political Director,
Federal Foreign Office**

Chair: Michael Phillip

Rapporteur: Allen Macomber

1. US/EU Summit: from Germany's perspective very successful. "Atmospherics" were the best since the beginning of the Iraq War! There was significant progress in some areas, including the agreement on a "Framework for Trans-Atlantic Integration", which is directed toward harmonization of non-tariff regulatory barriers, such as in creating common standards. It is expected that streamlining in these areas will result in higher growth rates in trade and investment for both the EU and the US. While the EU couldn't get the climate statement they wanted (with explicit targets), the final agreement went further than previous attempts. The Summit also confirmed the previously agreed Open Sky agreements and a new exchange of classified information which Germany considers relevant to the future of police and cooperation in Kosovo.

2. Kosovo Issue: the Russians are holding up an EU/US sponsored resolution on Kosovo in the Security Council, which would effectively create a limited autonomy but independent status for Kosovo. Arguing that the UN should not set a precedent of creating secessionist states, the Russians prefer Kosovo to remain under Serbian authority.

3. ICBMs: Germany and the EU both want the US to be more sensitive to Russian concerns about putting anti ballistic missiles in Poland or other Eastern European countries.

4. Turkey: Germany and the EU are caught in a tough conflict between preferring a secular government and supporting a democratic process. Brandenburg's view is that the existing government has done a credible job in meeting EU standards and has recently qualified for pre-accession aid. They have also delivered public services more effectively than the opposition, with less corruption. In reply to Bill's question of whether Turkey will ever make it, Brandenburg says if they meet the requirements, Germany will favorably consider their admission.

5. In reply to Mimi's question on the Estonian Embassy problem in Moscow (which has been surrounded by rioting Russians as a result of relocating the Russian monument in Tallin), Brandenburg says he hopes it will be settled without the Estonians having to close their Embassy; however, the situation probably was not handled very well in Estonia, and the Russians are extremely sensitive about their war monuments and cemeteries. He mentioned that as a precondition for Russian approval of German reunification, Germany had to agree to maintain Russian war monuments and cemeteries in Eastern Germany.

**Meeting with Rolf Nikel, Deputy Director General, Foreign Affairs, Security Policy, Global Issues
Office of the Chancellor**

Chair: Michael Maibach

Rapporteur: Mimi Chapin Gregory

Before our dialog with Director Nikel began, we were struck by his warm welcome, his perfect English, and then the "confession" that he was not only well acquainted with the World Affairs Council System, but had addressed both the Washington, D.C. and Pittsburgh Councils. Knowing that, we continued with a relaxed and open exchange of information and questions that gave us a clear view of the results of the EU-US Summit, Middle East Policy, Iran, Climate Change, the air transport agreement Open Skies, Turkey, and Putin's Russia.

Citing the excellent atmosphere at the Summit, Director Nikel felt that significant progress had been made with respect to Trans-Atlantic economic integration, the easing of regulatory barriers, the economic benefits in jobs and money of the air transport agreement, the need for necessary changes in accounting standards, harmonizing technological limits, and ways of sharing intellectual properties. Discussion of a single transatlantic market would mean good growth for the US and the EU. Presently, the EU is the largest investor in the US: 60% of GDP. They are also our largest trading partner at 40%. Director Nikel added a word of caution, however, that our Congress can be difficult to deal with as they have a strong tendency to over-regulate.

With respect to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Chancellor Angela Merkel has been to the region twice and has a good relationship with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. She is concerned by his lack of support within his country and firmly believes that the EU must stand behind the US, who has the clout to bring both sides to the negotiating table. Chancellor Merkel also believes in a two state solution to settle the conflict.

Iran presents another dilemma. Germany believes that a military, nuclear Iran is unacceptable. They are on board with the package of sanctions being worked out at the United Nations, but acknowledge the need of reinforcement from the international community as well as third world countries. Germany also believes that contact with Iran should be maintained, and agrees that there should be no nuclear enrichment allowed. Finally, they opine that should a military attack on Iran occur, Iraq would look like a “Sunday Walk”.

And what of climate change? The result of discussions were marginal, but extracted a promise to work together. Among the topics for further investigation are: energy efficiency, bio-fuels, and clean technologies. No agreement was reached on a 20% reduction of greenhouse gases by 2020.

Turkey’s entry into the EU generates many discussions. The fear of an Islamic Government was manifest in the recent round of elections, which spawned a demonstration of epic proportions. Cognizant of the past history of military coups, the withdrawal of the candidate was a measure of his recognition of the stress surrounding a religious government, and the clear preference of the populace to maintain a secular state. Germany also prefers a secular government for Turkey, citing that Turkey’s future development as a democracy will show that Islam and democracy can co-exist.

We had a long exchange with Director Nickel on the subject of Russia. As a neighbor, they are concerned by the issues of human rights, press manipulation, [fifth column attacks], and the control issues of gas delivery to countries such as Ukraine and Belarus. Germany, too, receives 40% of its gas from Russia, known as the “Saudi Arabia” of natural gas.

Russia’s attitude towards Georgia and the recent problem with Estonia fuel concerns within the EU. Director Nickel reminded us that Russia is a country which has lost its entire empire without a large war, giving birth to a psychological set of factors which deserve recognition. Of major concern to Russia is the proposed Missile Defense System, to be placed in Eastern Europe. While it is believed that the system is necessary because of rogue states, perhaps a serious and transparent discussion, including Russia, should be considered. Other concerns about MDF include system debris, electro-magnetic pulses, financing the system and most important - repercussion on the arms control agenda.

It is difficult not to observe the “Wall”, Checkpoint Charlie, and other reminders of the past that Germany has carried as an enormous cross to bear. Director Nickel looks ahead to a robust European Union, bolstered by new leaders in France and the UK and a strong, democratic road map for the future.

**Meeting with Bundesverband der Deutschen Industrie e.V.
(Federation of German Industries)**

Anja Boecker, Project Manager, North & Latin America International Affairs, Bilateral Relations

Fabian Wehnert, Director of Section European Affairs

Christoph Selig, Corporate Representative Office, Deutsche Post World Net

Chair: Michael Maibach

Rapporteur: Bill Kramer

The Federation of German Industries' (BDI) primary mission is to discuss strategic and topical issues with the Chancellor. They were busy before the recent summit in Washington, giving her advice on intellectual property rights, accounting standards, and energy and climate background. The BDI has been very pleased with Chancellor Merkel and was happy with the outcome at the recent summit, with some disappointment regarding progress on environmental policy.

The current economic environment in Germany is very good, with GDP growth at 2.7%. German companies have accomplished this growth on their own, without much involvement from the political arena. Germany is the leading exporter in Europe. The BDI publishes an economic outlook every three months and expects a 2.5% growth going forward. It was stated that German companies are producing at capacity.

BDI reiterated that the unemployment rate of 9% nationwide is not from a lack of need but because of unskilled labor. It was mentioned that the growth in the Old East is increasing at an even faster pace. Even with the strength of the Euro, companies have hedged against this and competitiveness has risen. 60% of all exports go to the Euro Zone. One of the concerns of German industry is why engage in renewable energy when other countries like the US, India and Russia are reluctant to do so.

It was discussed how this growth was obtained, noting the strong presence of trade unions. The trade unions did not ask for much in the last several years, which allowed companies to increase their bottom lines without pressure from wage increases. Salaries have not moved much in the last 10 years, due in part from the Social Democratic policies of Chancellor Schroeder. The trade unions are now asking for a 6.5% wage increase, which BDI thinks is too high.

The discussion of demographics came up again, with the BDI wanting a more liberal immigration law. No Polish workers can legally come to Germany until 2011. We discussed women in the work force and the three year maternity leave policy. Not only can the mother take time off, but the father may also have 2 months leave, however not at the same time. During this discussion it was asked why the birth rate was low for traditional Germans. With the growing professionalism of the female work force, they wait longer to find a spouse and thus find that choices are limited.

**Meeting with Karsten Voigt, Coordinator for German-American Cooperation,
Federal Foreign Office**

Chair: Margaret Lonsetta

Rapporteur: Melissa Lawrence

Mr. Voigt believes that relations between the US and Germany are improving largely due to the Chancellorship of Angela Merkel. Her actions have been aimed at creating good relationships with Germany's partners: this has allowed the US and Germany to disagree on policies and approaches while still being able to talk about their differences in a productive manner.

Giving some background on where Germany sees itself in the world, Mr. Voigt offered the view that the goal of Germany, unlike that of the United Kingdom or France, is not to be an opinion maker of Europe, but to integrate the views of the European Union member countries and represent these views on the world stage. Mr. Voigt pointed to the changing issues now discussed in conversations with the US; no longer are they focused on Europe and the nature of security in Europe, but are now focused on a wide range of issues from Darfur to global climate change to Afghanistan.

Germany's hesitance to take a more aggressive stance on many issues has caused some frustration in its relationship with the US. The German government reluctantly sent forces into Afghanistan but has resisted an expansion of their forces or their mandate. The German people are still very conflicted over this decision. As Mr. Voigt described the ingrained pacifism of the German people, the US is "suffering the results of its first successful occupation."

However, the German government recognizes it has a unique role to play as a partner with the US in dealing with the world's trouble spots. Germany does not face the same stigma as a former colonizer in much of the Middle East and Africa as many other European states do, making Germany an honest broker in those regions. In addition, the German government recognizes countries rather than regimes, making it possible to have diplomatic relations with countries like Iran and North Korea among others. Mr. Voigt stressed it is important to engage with all actors on the world stage as disengagement exacerbates hostilities.

**Meeting with Constanze Stelzenmuller, Director – Berlin Office,
German Marshall Fund of the United States**

Chair: Bill Kramer

Rapporteur: Melissa Lawrence

Founded in 1972, the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) began with a grant from the German government to do work to strengthen the transatlantic relationship. Since then, the GMF has opened offices in Berlin, Bratislava, Paris, Brussels, Belgrade, and Ankara as well as in Washington, DC. The Berlin office specifically hosts Transatlantic Fellows, a distinguished lecture series, and coordinates the Marshall Memorial Fellowship, a four week tour of Europe for young leaders from the United States. It is both a grant making and operating foundation.

Dr. Stelzenmuller came to the office after a career as a journalist for the German magazine *Die Zeit* where she covered such issues as NATO, European defense and security policy, military intervention in Kosovo and Afghanistan, the war on terror, Iraq, international war crimes tribunals, German foreign policy, and U.S.-German relations.

Discussing the future of European Union, she emphasized Germany's desire to move away from the existential question of "What is Europe?", placing the emphasis rather on how to make the European Union work. In future debates on the EU constitution, she predicts that Germany will be leading to formalize procedures and institutions rather than discussing who can and cannot be admitted.

The future of the European Union though will not be decided by the "French-German motor" as it once was. While both countries are important to make things happen, with 26 member countries, it is much harder for only Germany and France to set the agenda for debate.

Meeting at The Aspen Institute with Bastian Hermisson, Program Director Heinrich Boll Foundation

Chair: Mimi Gregory

Rapporteur: Dellashon Di Cresce

The Aspen Institute is a non-profit and non-partisan organization committed to providing a forum for transatlantic issues and dialogue. The Institute has been around for over 30 years and is located on the outskirts of Berlin.

The host for this meeting was Bastian Hermisson, Program Director for Foreign and Security Policy/Transatlantic Relations of the Heinrich Boll Foundation North America. The Heinrich Boll Foundation is a political foundation affiliated with the Green Party in Germany. Mr. Hermisson explained that after World War II the government decided that every party will get a political foundation. About 60-70% of the work is outside of Germany. These foundations are government funded but resemble NGO's and foundations in the United States.

The question was posed to the European Union, "Does the EU see Iran as a major threat to world peace?" Opinion polls showed that 2/3 of Germans believed that the United States is of greater threat to world peace than Iran.

In Germany, November 11th is much more essential than September 11th. The fall of the Berlin Wall was symbolic of the end of the Cold War and the reunification of East and West Germany. Finally the country could move forward and heal its wounds.

It was expressed that a Transatlantic Relationship with the United States can be a burden. Being anti-American is very popular in Germany. Chancellor Merkel is pragmatic and successful in dealing with the US. The world as well as Germany was willing to stand by the United States after 9/11, but their image is worsening due to scandals that have rocked the United States military such as the Abu Ghraib incidents.

Germany is increasingly coming under international pressure to be more involved in various conflicts. Germany agreed to join NATO in Kosovo, primarily for humanitarian reasons. German's felt strongly that they should act to prevent another Holocaust. Prior to 1999, Germany had not participated in any armed conflict since World War II

Whereas US attention is primarily on Iraq, Afghanistan is of utmost importance to Germany. Thousands of German troops are stationed abroad to help secure peace in Afghanistan. Germany took a lead role in rebuilding the police force and reconstruction of Afghanistan. They have come increasingly under criticism for Germany's unwillingness to engage in conflict in regions of the southern parts of Afghanistan and also for the lack of advisors to train police in significant numbers. Therefore, many argue that Germany has not fulfilled its goal in Afghanistan and view failure or success in this endeavor as pivotal in Germany's position internationally. The press follows in minute details the reconnaissance efforts of the army. This is a national debate that complicates Germany's landscape and divides groups.

Germans are not discussing Iraq and what would happen to the region if the United States leaves. In reality the question is very important. Turkey and the Middle East will be very susceptible to attacks and instability if the United States withdraws too early. If Turkey gets more involved in Iraq, admittance to the European Union will likely be out of the question. Due to the proximity of the Middle East to EU countries, caution is exercised when engaging in policies and actions. People are worried they have a stake and don't want the US to withdraw. Europeans are very concerned about the long term stability of Iraq because it is geographically closer to Germany than the US.

The delegation expressed concern about the European Union not recognizing Hezbollah as a terrorist organization. Hezbollah is a state within a state. Mr. Hermisson believes the EU and the US should develop a common strategy to deal with Hamas and Hezbollah. In fact, the EU and US would benefit by finding common foreign policies not only in regards to the Middle East but for other areas as well.

It was expressed by the host that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice should only go to the region if she has a viable policy initiative. There is uncertainty if she genuinely speaks for the president and yields any type of power to deliver results. In contrast, US Defense Secretary Robert Gates has been to Russia several times to talk about missile defense and seems to have strong support from the White House.

A question was posed about the relationship with Russia and Germany, as well as Germany's dependence on Russia for natural gas and the influence Germany has with regard to Russian policies. It was expressed that the United States needs to understand that there exists a special relationship between Germany and Russia and there are different perspectives on Russia. To understand this relationship, one must go back to the end of the Cold War when Russia assisted Germany in its reconstruction process. This relationship has grown and in many instances flourished.

It is of great concern that Germany is dependant on natural gas from Russia. This dependency can not be easily changed. There are numerous pipelines and structures that would make it very

difficult to modify Germany's oil dependency. Germany and Russia continue to expand energy cooperation and there is not much discussion about the possible disruption of energy flow through states such as the Ukraine or anywhere else. Germany, Russia, and the United States need to find common ground in order to move forward.

NATO should be reformed in order to address today's challenges. NATO needs to play a more political role, and not just be constrained by the limits of Article V. There should be an agreement on foreign policy issues. NATO is very necessary and plays a major role in such cases as Bulgaria, where the European Union is not taken very seriously.

**Dinner with Clemens Wergin, Editorial Writer and Political Book Editor,
"Der Tagesspiegel"**

Chair: Martin Pottle

Rapporteur: Mimi Chapin Gregory

Sharing views with Clemens Wergin was an eye-opener on the media in Germany. He surprised many of us by declaring his faithful daily review of the New York Times and the Washington Post. I say surprised because many of us are very critical of the print media in the US and query their political leanings and "Bleed and Lead" reporting. Clearly Mr. Wergin is of the opinion that there is more said in these papers and his other two favorites: The Daily Star and Ha'aretz. At minimum he has a good daily dose of news to digest!

What would satisfy the craving for exchanges of ideas? Mr. Wergin would like to see a bounty of think-tanks, blogs and open discussions of the "taboos" that are cloaked in "political correctness". An excellent example: "if only the French would stop subsidizing their farmers". Still, Mr. Wergin is pleased that 60% of the "deciders" read his paper.

He spoke of the deep pacifist trend in Germany and even though it has been 17 years since the Wall came down, perhaps it is still too early to expect Germany to be "out there". Curtailed by its foreign policy, Germany is able but reluctant to "step into the shoes it can wear", instead it aids the US and the UN with their respective policies when appropriate.

A discussion of President Putin's current "behavior" was revealing. Threatening dialogue with respect to the gas pipeline agreement, muscle flexing with an eye to divide NATO and Europe; Mr. Wergin believes that Putin would like to re-draw the boundaries of Europe to restore the "Russian Empire".

Finally, we discussed the problems of immigration. Berlin has the largest Muslim community outside of Istanbul. Many Arab males, receiving political asylum, are creating an anti-Semitic atmosphere within neighborhoods that are populated with immigrants from the Middle East. The effect on unemployment in Berlin is significant, with an 18% unemployment rate. Language is also a problem as the Turkish population, reaching its second generation, speaks neither good Turkish or German. Mr. Wergin believes that Europe is still "ethnic origin centered".

Returning to the reporting of "headline news", Mr. Wergin made an example of the large number of articles published in Europe on the subject of the US/Mexican border immigration problems.

He asked if we knew that 20 times more North Africans die in an effort to reach the European Union where they have easy access to state jobs? Did we know that more than 6,000 refugees drowned in the Mediterranean last year? An oversight? What about that “Bleed and Lead” mentality? It must be a virus after all.

Meeting at the US Embassy

John Koenig, Deputy Chief of Mission
Anne Chermak
Peter Claussen

Chair: Michael Maibach

Rapporteur: Dellashon Di Cresce

The delegation met with John Koenig, Anne Chermak, and Peter Claussen at the US embassy in Berlin, where they outlined the United States priorities during the German presidency of the European Union and the G8.

There are broad differences about how to proceed at the US – EU summit. From the embassy’s perspective, it went very well. It made headlines in Germany more so than in the United States but was nonetheless quite significant in nature.

The following are some highlights of the meeting at the embassy:

- In Europe people believe the US does not care much about environmental issues. That just isn’t true. We are working on energy and climate change needs, and looking to invest heavily in energy efficiency and reducing CO2 (coal technology) emissions to near zero.
- A survey shows that 90% of the German population supports United States in security and climate change.
- In economic discussions, there were talks of increasing transatlantic growth by 3% per year and trade investment more significantly. This was seen as being more beneficial than trying to have common market with Europe.
- Russia - there are extremely constructive talks and approaches as well as a positive shift in the atmosphere. Chancellor Merkel is not afraid to stand up for a position.
- Middle East- We are increasing our engagement of the peace process with the meeting of Secretary Rice and Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem. There was an excellent exchange of dialogue. Syria was prepared to do security training and economic building in the region. In Germany, however, there is no productive discussion about the Middle East. Germans are not supportive of the United States intervention in Iraq.

- Open Skies agreement has many benefits. It will allow carriers in Germany and other EU member states to fly to more destinations in the US and access to EU markets will be improved for the US. Passengers should see a reduction in ticket prices.
- There exists a large exchange of students, teachers and professionals between the United States and Germany. We are always looking to increase and expand upon those exchanges.

Embassy officials reiterated that Germany is not very animated about foreign policy. They are very critical of US actions. However, most Germans really admire the United States and it is important for the US to do a better job of cultivating the positive. Promoting a positive image of the United States is important in order to collaborate with the EU states in support of transatlantic cooperation.

Germany is slowly growing into a much larger global partner. Germany only spends about 1.4% of its GDP on defense. This year they will have a surplus of tax revenue. The US would like them to make larger contributions to international aid, while Germans are looking at buying down debt. Germany is positioned to be an international leader, if it wants to be.

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In Koeln, the delegation had the opportunity to visit Roman ruins. Above, the group views the remains of the governor's throne room. Below, a frieze in the Romano-Germanic Museum.





At Brauerei Mahzule, the delegation sampled German cuisine and the regional beer Koelsch.





Above, the delegation with Mr. Rolf Nickel in the Chancellery

Below, the delegation with Mr. Karsten Voigt of the Federal Foreign Office





Michael Maibach and Bill Kramer at the Holocaust Memorial



Waiting for a U-Bahn train



At the Aspen Institute's offices, the delegation met with Bastian Hermisson and Clare Schillinger, pictured above with Dellashon DiCresce and Mimi Gregory.

