

As Europe Reopens, EU and U.S. Interests Must Be Aligned

The COVID-19 outbreak hit both sides of the Atlantic hard, as the UK, Italy, Spain, and France weathered particularly severe outbreaks. Despite the challenges, Scandinavian children are returning to school, German soccer is back, and Greece is set to welcome tourists to its beaches. (See the latest on our [COVID-19 Global Dashboard](#).) With communities around the United States beginning to reopen, Europe can offer important lessons for a gradual economic restart.

Backed by a €750 billion investment strategy and sizeable resources, Europe's recovery effort aims to advance two top priorities – the European Green Deal and boosting digital competitiveness. As the EU defines a path forward, new legislation should help and not hinder global trade and investment flows. The Chamber and its members support policies that facilitate a sustainable recovery and will convene a series of conversations on these issues in the coming weeks. Similarly, a more digitally enabled and competitive Europe is welcome and supported by the U.S. business community. However, a green recovery and a boost to Europe's digitization cannot become excuses to advance protectionist industrial policies.

As the EU develops new rules and regulations, we urge EU authorities to consult closely with U.S. counterparts to ensure alignment. Why? The U.S. and EU enjoy the largest commercial relationship in the world. Trade and investment flows support more than 16 million jobs in the United States and \$4 billion in goods and services cross the Atlantic daily. As a result, policies to foster Europe's recovery are directly linked to our own economic prosperity. The Chamber is already vocal in Europe on both sustainability and digital issues, and we want to ensure that new policies do not deepen a rift in the transatlantic relationship.

Between Europe's recovery efforts, the UK's looming departure from the European Single Market, and U.S.-UK trade negotiations, the Chamber's European Affairs team has a busy summer ahead as they ensure Europe's path forward supports our members' interests.

—Myron Brilliant, Executive Vice President, Head of International Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce