

## What's Ahead for Transatlantic Relations?



Ambassadors from the European Union, France, and Germany joined Chamber's Head of International Affairs Myron Brilliant for a conversation on transatlantic relations. The Biden administration has put a premium on reaffirming ties with allies in Europe, and the three ambassadors expressed optimism that despite our differences, there is ample room to advance a positive transatlantic agenda.

### Highlights:

- **COVID-19 pandemic:** EU Ambassador Stavros Lambrinidis hailed private sector cooperation, citing Pfizer's cooperation with BioNTech to develop a vaccine in record time. He underscored the importance of distributing vaccines quickly to poorer nations, emphasizing that "solidarity is not charity."
- **EU "tech sovereignty":** German Ambassador Emily Haber said that Europe's interest in building its capacity is not at odds with transatlantic cooperation on digital issues. Noting that Europe "doesn't want to be a playground, it wants to be a player," she also highlighted the shared interest in responding to existential threats from "technological autocracies."
- **Trade:** The ambassadors agreed the U.S. and EU should immediately resolve nagging trade barriers; this includes removing U.S. Section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminum and European countermeasures, as well as the long-standing dispute over subsidies to large civil aircraft makers.

**ICYMI:** Watch the full [InSTEP session](#) and contact Chamber Senior Vice President for European Affairs [Marjorie Chorlins](#) for more information on the Chamber's engagement with Europe.

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