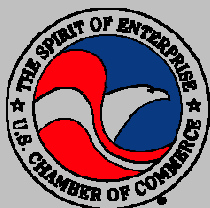


THE EUROPE & EURASIA BUSINESS DISPATCH

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U.S.-Europe News

No Progress at EU-Russia Summit

A May 18 summit between the EU and Russia failed to unblock the launch of talks on an EU-Russian partnership agreement. They are stalled because of a Polish veto stemming from a trade row. Tensions have been highlighted by riots after Estonia removed a Soviet war memorial and subsequent allegations of website hacking, Russian bans on importing Polish food products and oil rations with Lithuania. Additionally, American and Russian tensions have continued to mount over a proposed US missile shield plan with possible sites in Poland and the Czech Republic. Russia does not believe US claims of an Iranian threat and is wary of having sites so close to its borders.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said during an intensive two days of talks in Russia that policy differences over European-based missile defense and the future of Kosovo should not overshadow the strength of the common interests underlying U.S.-Russian relations. "We have a lot that is going right in the relationship," Rice said at a May 15 press roundtable, but "overheated rhetoric" obscures the fact that the United States and Russia are cooperating closely on nonproliferation and counterterrorism efforts -- including sharing of information and intelligence -- as well as engaging in multilateral diplomacy on Iran, North Korea and the Middle East peace process.

U.N. Security Council Begins Debate on Kosovo Resolution

The United States and Europe have submitted a preliminary draft resolution to the U.N. Security Council that would set the groundwork for internationally supervised independence for Kosovo. Russia, which wants talks to continue between Serbia and Kosovo, has submitted a separate preliminary draft. The joint U.S.-European draft proposal includes a suggestion by Russia to create a special envoy to safeguard the rights of Kosovo Serbs. Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said that some points in the two drafts cannot be reconciled.

Cyprus and Malta set to join eurozone in 2008

On May 16, the EU Commission, backed by the European Central Bank (ECB) proposed to enlarge the eurozone, admitting Cyprus and Malta in 2008. The two countries managed to meet the necessary Maastricht requirements, concerning budget deficit, currency stability and interest-rate convergence.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Highlights

- On May 21, U.S. Chamber Senior Vice President for International Affairs, Dan Christman, will speak at a meeting of [the Baltic American Chambers of Commerce](#) hosted by AmCham Lithuania in Vilnius.
- On May 21, the U.S. Chamber will host [Indonesian Trade Minister Pangestu](#) for a discussion of the U.S.-Indonesian trade relationship in Washington, D.C.
- On May 22, the Chamber's Western Hemisphere and Environment, Technology and Regulatory Affairs departments will host "[Meeting the Biofuels R&D Challenge](#)," a day-long conference organized as part of our "Biofuels Dialogue" series. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns will offer the keynote address.
- On May 22, the Chamber's Southeast Asia team will meet with [Thai Minister of Public Health Mongkhol Na Songkhla](#) to discuss Thailand's issuance of [compulsory licenses for patent-protected pharmaceutical products](#).
- On May 22, Policy Advisor for Europe & Eurasia, Kristal Alley, will speak at [AmCham Greece's Health World 2007](#) Conference on the topic of IPR, Patents, and Innovation.
- May 23-25, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is hosting [America's Small Business Summit 2007](#). The Summit will offer attendees insight into current political issues, small business trends, hands-on lobbying experience, networking opportunities, and much more.
- On May 24, the U.S. Chamber's Eurasia Business Platform will hold its [2nd Eurasia AmCham Workshop](#) in Moscow, Russia. The ½ day forum will be hosted by AmCham Russia.
- On May 24, the Chamber will co-host a reception and dinner for [Chinese Vice Premier Wu Yi](#) and her delegation to the U.S.-China Strategic Economic Dialogue.
- The U.S. Chamber's Institute for Legal Reform has released its 2007 U.S. Chamber of Commerce State Liability Systems Ranking Study. The study is a national sample of in-house general counsel or other senior corporate litigators to explore how reasonable and balanced the tort liability system is perceived to be by U.S. business. The study can be found at www.uschamber.com.

American Chambers of Commerce Events & Activities

*There are 42 American Chambers of Commerce in Europe and Eurasia,
which are affiliated with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce*

Austria

- On June 5, the American Chamber of Commerce in Austria (AmCham Austria) will host a Gala Dinner in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Marshall Plan. The opening address will be by H.E. Ambassador Susan McCaw and the commemorative speech will be delivered by [Dr. Martin Bartenstein, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Labor](#). The event sponsors are Software AG, Estée Lauder, and the Vienna Marriott Hotel.
- On June 20, AmCham Austria holds its 48th General Assembly a luncheon. David B. Waller, Deputy Director General, International Atomic Energy Agency, will speak at the luncheon.

Belgium

- On May 22, the American Chamber of Commerce in Belgium (AmCham Belgium) will hold an [exclusive pre-election breakfast with Prime Minister Verhofstadt](#) on measures to boost economic growth and employment.
- On May 24, AmCham Belgium will hold a workshop on [“Effective Networking”](#) with John Niland of Success 121. This is the first in AmCham Belgium’s “Information Workshop” series and is especially aimed at small and medium sized companies.
- On May 25, AmCham Belgium will hold a welcome lunch with [new US Ambassador to Belgium, Sam Fox](#).
- On June 7, AmCham Belgium is hosting an [Annual Gala Dinner with Ambassador Frans Van Daele, Permanent Representative of Belgium to NATO](#).

Croatia

- On June 13, the American Chamber of Commerce in Croatia (AmCham Croatia) is holding an event on [“Adjusting the Croatian legislation to the EU with focus on finance and tax system”](#). The guest speaker will be Martina Dalić (Sate Secretary, Central State Office for Development Strategy and Coordination of EU funds).
- On June 30, AmCham Croatia will hold its annual [4th of July Picnic](#).
- You can find AmCham Croatia’s latest position paper on [‘Harmonizing Croatia and EU Legislation, Regulations, and Standards, in Preparation for EU Accession’](#) at: http://www.amcham.hr/dwnls/position_papers/positionpaper-harmonizing_w_eu.pdf

Denmark

- On June 6, the American Chamber of Commerce in Denmark (AmCham Denmark), in cooperation with FORA and the U.S. Department of Commerce International Trade Administration, will hold the Danish-American [Venture Capital & Entrepreneurship Summit](#). This full day summit at FUHU in Copenhagen will bring together U.S. and Danish experts to address key issues within the fields of entrepreneurship and venture capital.
- On June 23, AmCham Denmark and the American Embassy will welcome guests to the [231st American Independence Day](#) celebration in Copenhagen. This year's Independence Day Family Picnic will be at Rydhave, the official residence of U.S. ambassadors to Denmark and currently home to U.S. Ambassador James P. Cain.

European Union (EU)

- May 21-23, the American Chamber of Commerce to the EU (AmCham EU) [Financial Services Committee](#) members will visit Frankfurt and Strasbourg.
- On May 22, AmCham EU will hold a [plenary meeting on the Portuguese EU Presidency](#).
- On June 6, AmCham EU will hold its [annual gala night](#) with the winners of the Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition for Piano.
- On July 17, AmCham EU will hold a plenary meeting on the [Review of the Consumer Acquis with keynote speaker Meglena Kuneva, EU Commissioner for Consumer Protection](#).
- Recent position papers: Social Affairs Committee, April 18, 2007: Follow-up position paper on the portability of supplementary pension rights: <http://www.amchameu.be/Pops/2007/SOCFollow-upSupplementaryPension180407.pdf>; Customs & Trade Facilitation Committee, April 18, 2007: Position letter to Mirosław Zielinski requesting trade contact group meeting: <http://www.amchameu.be/Pops/2007/CUSTJointIndustryLetter18.04.2007.pdf>.

Finland

- On May 21, AmCham Finland members will explore the fine art of developing business contacts at the [AmCham Networking Workshop](#).
- On May 23, AmCham Finland's [Women's Network](#) will hold its quarterly meeting on "Product Promotion".
- On May 28, AmCham Finland will hold a [conference on "The Aging Population"](#) with Professor Jeremy Siegel from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.
- On May 30, AmCham Finland will welcome [Pekka Lintu, Ambassador of Finland to the U.S.](#), for a [roundtable discussion on Transatlantic Relations](#).

Germany

- On May 21, the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany (AmCham Germany) will hold a forum on ["Innovations in Medical Technology – Engine for Healthcare Business?"](#) in Berlin.
- On May 29, Charlotte Knobloch, President Jewish Congregation of Germany, will give interested AmCham members a [guided tour of the Jewish Centre and Synagogue of Munich](#).

- On May 30, [Dr. Helmut Linssen, Minister of Finance, North Rhine-Westphalia](#), will deliver a keynote speech at AmCham Germany's business luncheon in Dusseldorf.
- On May 30, Commissioner Paul S. Atkins, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, will speak to AmCham members in Frankfurt on '[Going Forward with the Transatlantic Financial Co-operation](#)'.

Greece

- On May 22, the American Hellenic Chamber of Commerce (AmCham Greece) will hold [HealthWorld 2007](#) in Athens.
- On May 30, AmCham Greece will hold a one day event entitled: "[Education as a Tool to a Society of Knowledge: Does our education system contribute to this development?](#)"
- On June 4-5, AmCham Greece will hold its [11th Thessaloniki Forum](#).
- On June 11, AmCham Greece will hold a conference entitled: "[Structural Unemployment-Employment Trends-Is Flexicurity the Future Answer?](#)"
- On June 14, AmCham Greece will hold its Five Chambers' dinner with guest speaker [Christos Folias, Minister of Economy & Finance](#) in Thessaloniki.
- On June 20, AmCham Greece will hold a luncheon on the [Fourth European Union Funding Protocol](#) with Prokopis Pavlopoulos, Minister of Internal Affairs, Public Administration & Decentralization.
- On June 29, AmCham Greece will hold its [Annual General Assembly Meeting](#).

Hungary

- On May 24, the American Chamber of Commerce in Hungary (AmCham Hungary) will hold a Business Forum with [Franz Bailom, Founder and Partner of IMP Consulting](#).
- On June 8, AmCham Hungary will hold Workshop in its [AmCham – CEU Academy: Dialogues in Leadership Series](#).

Israel

- On June 4, the Israel America Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AmCham Israel) will hold its [Annual Awards Dinner](#), during which awards will be granted to significant contributors to investment and trade between Israel and the U.S. The award recipients are: Hewlett-Packard Israel, Netafim Irrigation Systems, Nova Measuring Instruments, Alan Casden, Casden Properties, Los Angeles, CA and Mr. Tom Glaser, President of the America-Israel Chamber of Commerce, Atlanta, GA.
- AmCham Israel is co-sponsoring a conference on commercial relationships between U.S. and Israeli companies in the [Alternative and Renewable Energy field](#). The events will take place on June 18, in Albany, New York and June 19, in New York City. Co-sponsors are the America-Israel Chamber of Commerce in New York, New York State-Empire State Development, the Government of Israel Economic Mission, and other leading business organizations and academic institutions in Israel and New York.

- On July 2, AmCham Greece will hold its “Salute to the U.S. Independence Day” reception.

Kosovo

- On June 1, on the International day of Children, the American Chamber of Commerce in Kosovo (AmCham Kosovo), in cooperation with Raiffeisen Bank in Kosovo, is organizing the annual [Charity Gala Dinner](#).
- AmCham Kosovo and the United States Office in Prishtina are organizing [Business Ethics week](#), from June 25- 30. A two day conference will take place featuring Dr. Anita Baker.

The Netherlands

- On May 23, the American Chamber of Commerce in the Netherlands (AmCham Netherlands) will have their [AGM & Chamber Luncheon](#) with guest speaker Adjiedj Bakas.
- On June 21, AmCham Netherlands will hold its “10th [Annual Transfer Pricing Seminar](#)” in cooperation with Deloitte.
- On June 25, AmCham Netherlands will hold a seminar with the Schiphol Group on ‘[Werkstad A4](#)’.

Norway

- On August 22, AmCham Norway and member company, Continental Airlines, welcomes members and special guests to its [6th Annual Golf Tournament](#).

Poland

- The American Chamber of Commerce in Poland (AmCham Poland) will hold a [Business Mixer](#), sponsored by Bristol Hotel and Magellan on May 22.
- AmCham Poland’s Agriculture & Food Committee will hold a meeting on May 23.
- AmCham Poland Real Estate Committee’s conference on [Real Estate Investment Trusts \(REITs\)](#) will take place on May 24.
- AmCham Poland is organizing a meeting with [David McCraw, Vice President of New York Times](#) on May 25.

Romania

- May 23-24, the American Chamber of Commerce in Romania (AmCham Romania) and the Association for Community Relations are organizing the [4th National Corporate Social Responsibility \(CSR\) Conference](#). Both Romanian and international experts will come and address key concepts such as corporate social responsibility, community involvement, and corporate social investment.

Sweden

- On May 23, the American Chamber of Commerce in Sweden (AmCham Sweden) will hold their AGM with guest speaker, Maud Olofsson, Sweden Minister for Enterprise and Energy, Deputy Prime Minister on “[Reflections on U.S.-Swedish relations: Climate change - key area of cooperation](#)”.

- On May 29, AmCham Sweden and the International Chamber of Commerce are invited to a [Hearing on Intellectual Property Rights “Sweden - a safe haven for pirates?”](#) Speakers include: Maren Christensen, Executive Vice President, Universal Studios, Professor Jan Rosén, Stockholm University, Gerard Versteegh, Managing Director, Film2Home, Eric Broberg, Senior Vice President, Buena Vista International.
- On June 1, AmCham Sweden will hold a Business Breakfast with Paul Dickerson, J.D., CPA, Chief Operating Officer, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy on “U.S. Priorities within Renewable Energy and U.S. Department of Energy Programs”.
- On June 12, AmCham Sweden will host a Business Breakfast with [Rolf Lundberg, Jr. Senior Vice President, Congressional and Public Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#) and [Charlotte Nyberg, Senior Director, International and EU Policy, the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise \(Svenskt Näringslivet\)](#), on “Following Up on Merkel’s and EU-U.S. Governments’ Transatlantic Initiatives”.

Ukraine

- On May 22, the American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine (AmCham Ukraine) will hold the Chamber’s [Marketing Club](#).
- On May 24, AmCham Ukraine will hold [Tax Committee](#) meeting, on May 28 its [Banking & Financial Services Committee](#) meeting, and on May 31, its [Business Management Education and Training Committee](#) meeting.

American Chambers of Commerce (AmChams) in Europe & Eurasia

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