Transatlantic Business Initiative

TBI Transatlantic Dialogue:
Trade and the New Geoeconomic Order

Wednesday, 7 October 2026, Association of German Banks

Agenda *(as of September 18, 2026)*

14:00 – 14:30 **Registration and Coffee**

14:30 – 15:00 **Welcome & Opening Remarks: Transatlantic Relations before the 2026 Midterms**

Speakers:

- Heiner **Herkenhoff**, CEO, Association of German Banks
- Tobias **Meyer**, Chair of the TBI and CEO, DHL Group
- Andrew **Puzder**, Ambassador of the United States of America to the European Union *(invited)*

15:00 – 16:00 **Panel I:**
Tariffs, Trade, and Trust: Navigating Transatlantic Economic Tensions

Key Questions:

1. How have tariffs and trade barriers reshaped transatlantic trade flows, investment decisions, and industrial policy?
2. To what extent do tariffs reflect deeper strategic disagreements between Europe and the United States?
3. Can the EU and the U.S. rebuild trust and move toward a more cooperative trade framework—or are protectionist tendencies here to stay?

Speakers:

- Emily **Benson**, Head of Strategy, Minerva Technology Futures
- Jean P. **Froehly**, Head of Economic and Financial Affairs, Embassy of Germany in Washington D.C. *(virtual participation)*
- Barbara **Gessler**, Head of Berlin Representation, European Commission
- Andreas **Schumacher**, Executive Vice President Strategy Mergers & Acquisitions, Infineon

Moderator:

- Marcus **Schwenke**, Head of Foreign Trade Policy + Import Promotion + Development Cooperation + Projects, Federation of German Wholesale, Foreign Trade and Services (BGA)

16:00 – 16:15 **Coffee Break**

16:15 - 16:45 **Fireside Chat: The 2026 Midterms**

Speaker:

- Brendan **Boyle**, U.S. Representative (Pennsylvania), Co-Chair of the Congressional Study Group on Germany *(invited)*

Moderator:

- Matthias **Krämer**, Co-Director International Affairs, Federation of German Industries (BDI) and Managing Director, TBI

16:45 – 17:45 **Panel II:**
Building Bridges: Advancing a Positive Transatlantic Agenda

Key Questions:

1. Which sectors continue to attract significant transatlantic business investment and partnerships despite the changing political landscape?
2. What are the most important barriers that still prevent companies from fully leveraging the transatlantic market—and what should policymakers prioritize to remove them?
3. In an era of growing geopolitical competition, where can transatlantic cooperation create a genuine competitive advantage for businesses on both sides of the Atlantic?

Speakers:

- Marion **Bayer-Schiller**, Head of Large Corporates, UniCredit Bank
- Elizabeth **Kosobucki**, Director Trade Policy Strategy, Ford Motor Company *(virtual participation)*
- Christopher F. **Porter**, President, AmCham Germany
- Mark **Tomkins**, President and CEO, German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest

Moderator:

- Nicole **Renvert**, Managing Director International Economic Relations, German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DIHK)

17:45 – 18:00 **Closing Reflections: From Friction to Strategy**

Speaker:

- Kolja **Gabriel**, Member of the Executive Board, Association of German Banks

18:00 **Drinks Reception**