THE TWO BIGGEST TRADING BLOCS ARE TAKING DIVERGENT ECONOMIC PATHS

At its Transatlantic Conference, the American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union (AmCham EU) released the results of The Transatlantic Economy 2015, the annual survey of jobs, trade and investment between the EU and the United States. The report showed that since the financial crisis, the United States and Europe have embarked on divergent economic paths. The U.S. economy is now in its sixth year of recovery while Europe struggled in 2014 to avoid a triple-dip, or a third recession in six years, with real growth at 0.9% versus 2.4% in the United States. The IMF predicts this gap to widen in 2015.

Job creation is another area where both economies diverge. The U.S. economy is generating jobs; this is not the case in Europe. As of February 2015, America’s unemployment rate was 5.7% compared with 9.9% in Europe. The report states that there is potential for these figures to diverge even more with Europe now undergoing a technology backlash and facing growing energy insecurity. This has left the digital and energy sectors in Europe lagging behind their US counterparts.

Joe Quinlan, Senior Fellow, Center for Transatlantic Relations, Johns Hopkins University stated, ‘The transatlantic economy is now at a pivotal juncture. If Europe continues on this track the two economies will be even more out of step. We need to ensure this gap does not widen as it could have negative repercussions for both sides of the Atlantic. I strongly believe the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) can provide the best opportunity to make a positive difference and produce much needed growth for both the EU and the United States.’

Despite these findings there is cause for optimism: the United States and Europe remain each other’s most important markets generating $5.5 trillion in total commercial sales each year. Since 2000 Europe has attracted over 55% of total US global investment and remains the most profitable region for US companies. US foreign affiliate income earned in Europe rose 6.2% in 2014 to an estimated $238 billion — a record high, and one-third higher than the depressed levels of 2009.

The launch of the report comes just weeks after the 8th round of TTIP negotiations in Brussels. The report highlights the significance of the transatlantic economy not only in terms of GDP but also employment with some 15 million workers, on both sides of the Atlantic, in mutually ‘onshored’ jobs. The transatlantic economy remains the world’s largest and wealthiest market, and still accounts for roughly 35% of world GDP in terms of purchasing power parity. It remains the dominant force in the global economy.
Goods and Services Deficit

The U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, through the Department of Commerce, announced that the goods and services deficit was $51.4 billion in March, up $15.5 billion from $35.9 billion in February, revised. March exports were $187.8 billion, $1.6 billion more than February exports. March imports were $239.2 billion, $17.1 billion more than February imports.

Unemployment Rate

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 223,000 in April, and the unemployment rate was essentially unchanged at 5.4 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Job gains occurred in professional and business services, health care, and construction. Mining employment continued to decline.

Producer Price Index Down

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the Producer Price Index for final demand fell 0.4 percent in April, seasonally adjusted. Final demand prices moved up 0.2 percent in March and decreased 0.5 percent in February.

Industrial Production Down

Industrial production decreased 0.3 percent in April for its fifth consecutive monthly loss. Manufacturing output was unchanged in April after recording an upwardly revised gain of 0.3 percent in March. In April, the index for mining moved down 0.8 percent, its fourth consecutive monthly decrease; a sharp fall in oil and gas well drilling has more than accounted for the overall decline in mining this year.

Consumer Price increased

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 0.1 percent in April on a seasonally adjusted basis, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Over the last 12 months, the all items index declined 0.2 percent before seasonal adjustment.

The Conference Board Leading Economic Index®

The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S. increased 0.7 percent in April to 122.3 (2010 = 100), following a 0.4 percent increase in March, and a 0.2 percent decline in February.

“April’s sharp increase in the LEI seems to have helped stabilize its slowing trend, suggesting the paltry economic growth in the first quarter may be temporary,” said Ataman Ozyildirim, Economist at The Conference Board. “However, the growth of the LEI does not support a significant strengthening in the economic outlook at this time. The improvement in building permits helped to drive the index up this month, but gains in other components, in particular the financial indicators, have been somewhat more muted.”

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>United States Economic Data</th>
<th>%*</th>
<th>Period</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
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<td>Q1 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Industrial Prod.</td>
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<td>Apr. 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consumer Prices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Producer Prices</td>
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<td>Leading Indicators</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Apr. 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Def. bn $</td>
<td>51.4</td>
<td>May 15</td>
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*change previous period
Coca-Cola CUP 2015

In cooperation with the OFB, Coca-Cola is organizing the Coca-Cola CUP in 2015 for the 11th time. The tournament is one of three cups that take place in all parts of Austria. The Coca-Cola CUP is the Euro League for up-and-coming players. Throughout Europe, more than one million young players in twelve countries take part in the event. Additionally, the Coca-Cola U12 League is the first mass sports initiative to take over the national sponsoring of an entire age group in youth football.

Coca-Cola CUP ambassador David Alaba got the chance to see his successors’ talent. He said, “It was a great tournament with excellent matches. I was surprised by the high level as well as by the great atmosphere among the fans. Small Champions League is a good description. These big cups are very important for young players and a step of a successful career.”

The OFB top management is also proud of the development of the Coca-Cola CUP. OFB president Dr. Leo Windtner said, “The cooperation between Coca-Cola and the OFB includes promotion of young players as well as of the national team. This partnership is a perfect example of content and sustainability. The Coca-Cola CUP model has grown over the years and has become established in youth football.”

Gebrüder Weiss

Gebrüder Weiss Expands its Location in Esslingen

Gebrüder Weiss is optimising cargo handling at its Esslingen location with the construction of a new warehouse. Equipped with improved soundproofing, energy efficient lighting and a state-of-the-art CCTV system, the new warehouse meets the highest standards in terms of technology, security and environmental protection. „The new infrastructure will enable us to offer even faster throughput times in cargo handling and to meet our customers’ demands for shorter transport times,“ says Thorsten Munk, Branch Manager of Gebrüder Weiss Esslingen. The terminal is set to commence operations at the end of 2015. Approximately 6 million euros have been invested in the expansion project.

Gebrüder Weiss employs around 300 members of staff at the Esslingen site, around 70 of these in the cargo handling terminal. The facility has good transport connections as it is close to the A8 motorway and the B10 main road, so efficient onward transport is guaranteed.

Hilton Vienna Danube Waterfront

Decorated with three Awards

Award-hat-trick for “Austria’s Leading Business Hotel”: Thomas Spitzer has been awarded as Food & Beverage Manager of the Year for Europe, Middle East and Africa, the kitchen team around Executive Chef Konrad Zellner as F&B Masters winner for the same region, both by Hilton Worldwide. “I am very proud of the team at Hilton Vienna Danube Waterfront. Those two awards together with the award of ´Austria’s Leading Business Hotel´ by World Travel Awards, shows that we are on the right way on the very competitive Viennese market.”, says Norbert B. Lessing, Country General Manager of Hilton Hotels Austria. Markus Hussler, General Manager at Hilton Vienna Danube Waterfront adds: “The achievements are a great kick-off for culinary summer on our terrace at the Danube.”

DHL

Introduces Cubicycle, an Innovative Cargo Bike for Urban Distribution, to its Netherlands Operations

DHL Express has introduced a new vehicle to its fleet in the Netherlands that will further enhance its efforts to improve its carbon efficiency. The “Cubicycle” is a quadracycle with a removable container that has a cargo volume of one cubic meter. Key advantages of the bicycle in comparison with similar types of non-motorized transport are its volume and better integration into DHL’s operational systems. The reclining position and the speed that comes from this position are features of the Cubicycle, as well as electric power assistance that allow for faster acceleration from a starting position. „The Cubicycle is comfortable to ride and is surprisingly agile with a tight turning circle,“ said Kees de Lange, Vice President of Operations at DHL Express Netherlands. „Despite the large container, the bike fits perfectly on bike lanes. The height of the bike has been tailored so that other riders can see over it unhindered. This is a key distinguishing factor of the Cubicycle compared to other existing high volume bicycles.”
**Woman in Gold**

Starting June 5th  
Artis International, Burg Kino, English Cinema Haydn, Votivkino OV 1010 Vienna

Woman in Gold is a 2015 British-American drama film directed by Simon Curtis and written by Alexi Kaye Campbell. The film stars Helen Mirren, Ryan Reynolds, Daniel Brühl, Katie Holmes, Tatiana Maslany, Max Irons, Charles Dance, Elizabeth McGovern, and Jonathan Pryce. The film is based on the true story of the late Maria Altmann, an elderly Jewish refugee, living in Los Angeles who, together with her young lawyer, E. Randol Schoenberg, fought the government of Austria for almost a decade to reclaim Gustav Klimt’s iconic painting of her aunt, Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I, which was confiscated from her relatives by the Nazis in Vienna just prior to World War II. Altmann took her legal battle all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States, which ruled in her favor in Republic of Austria v. Altmann (2004).

**Los Angeles Youth Orchestra**

Charity concert under the leadership of Russell Steinberg  
June 27th, 8.00 p.m. – 9.30 p.m.  
MuTh – Konzertsaal der Wiener Sängerknaben  
Am Augartenspitz 1  
1020 Vienna

The Los Angeles Youth Orchestra now includes between 80 and 90 students ranging in age from 8 to 18, from both public and private schools. The diversity of students is a strong reflection of contemporary Los Angeles. The orchestra offers a variety of unique enrichment experiences including working with guest artists and mentoring with major orchestras. By providing an orchestral experience available to all students, the vision of the Los Angeles Youth Orchestra is to become a musical voice that embraces the entire Los Angeles community. Musicians from the Johann Sebastian Bach music school Vienna support the orchestra from the USA. Actor and Oscar prize-winner Jonathan K. Simmons will be moderating the evening. The proceeds will be going to the project „CASA FELICE“, in favour of street children in Arad, Rumania. This project stands under the patronage of the European culture initiative for young generations.

**The Fox on the Fairway**

May 26th – July 2nd  
Vienna’s English Theatre  
1080 Vienna

With Fox on the Fairway, Ken Ludwig (author of Lend Me a Tenor) is paying tribute to the great English farces of the 1930s and 1940s, taking audiences on an hilarious romp about love, life, and man’s eternal love affair with… golf! Henry Bingham, president of the Quail Valley Country Club, is in a desperate situation. In the midst of preparations for the Annual Inter-Club Golf Tournament, he discovers that his opponent and arch-enemy, ‘Dickie’ Bell, has managed to lure his best player away to play for his own, opposing, side. This will most certainly result in Henry losing the huge bet he has foolishly wagered if he cannot find an adequate replacement immediately. Luckily he discovers that his newly hired hand Justin, who is in love with Louise, the waitress at the club house, is a surprisingly talented golfer. Justin does not disappoint in the tournament and has a huge lead. But when, close to the end, he learns that Louise has lost the engagement ring he gave her, he starts to unravel and hilarious mayhem ensues.
Panel Discussion on
"Investor-State Dispute Settlement under the TTIP - European and American Hopes and Fears"

Introduction and Chair of the Panel:
Dr. Martin Brodey, LL.M.,
Partner, DORDA BRUGGER JORDIS

Panelists:
James Bangert,
Head of Economic Unit, US Embassy
Prof. MMag. Dr. August Reinisch, LL.M.,
Head of the Section for International Law and International Relations, Vienna University
Dr. Manfred Schekulin, MBA,
Director Export & Investment Policy, Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research & Economy

Monday, June 29th 2015
06.00 p.m.
DORDA BRUGGER JORDIS
Attorneys at Law
1010 Vienna

After the discussion DORDA BRUGGER JORDIS invites you to drinks and fingerfood.

register by June, 26th 2015 under:
julia.litschauer@dbj.at
**MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARY**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS CELEBRATING THEIR 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEMBERSHIP!**

**WE THANK THEM FOR THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT!**

“AmCham is my favourite networking platform. Regular well organised events with interesting speakers are a huge added value and enable consistent contacts among all members. With great comfort you can easily get to know new people and learn more about interesting topics. And by the way: the bagels at Business Breakfast taste great.” says Dr. Raphael Hartl, Director, Private Investors, Schoellerbank

Schoellerbank is a modern private bank and is one of the industry leaders in Austria. Its core competence: asset management. The bank has a nationwide presence with 12 locations, allowing it to offer customers expert advice on a local basis. “There are two key principles that define us: First, our relationship managers work day in and day out to meet the expectations of our customers. Second, we put the personal interests of our customers ahead of those of the bank,” says Franz Witt-Döring, Chairman of the Managing Board at Schoellerbank, explaining the bank’s customer philosophy.

Schoellerbank is one of the industry leaders in Austria.

**OeKB**

OeKB is Austria’s main provider of financial and information services to the export industry and the capital market.

**SEMPERIT**

Situated next to the Vienna State Opera, Hotel Bristol is the place in the Austrian capital where Viennese society as well as global travellers and influencers have gathered to experience the city’s social and cultural scene since its opening in 1892. Today, the six-storey Hotel Bristol offers 127 rooms and 23 suites, including the impressive 350-square-metre Prince of Wales Suite and the new Bristol Suites.

**Honeywell**

The Honeywell Austria GesmbH, with headquarter in Vienna, offers a broad spectrum of energy efficiency and security solutions for the residential, building and industrial automation and control systems market, including maintenance and technical services that are delivered on-site or online via cloud applications. Honeywell Austria employs 160 people in Vienna and 6 subsidiaries in Linz, Graz, Klagenfurt, Salzburg, Innsbruck and Goetzis.

Built in 1863 as the residence of the Prince of Württemberg, the magnificent palace on the Ring Boulevard turned into the Hotel Imperial on the occasion of the World Exposition in 1873. The noble ambience enchants far-traveled cosmopolitan guests accustomed to only the most superior accommodation. Love of detail applies to the individually styled rooms and suites. Magnificent salons provide an exclusive setting for business meetings. State-of-the-art convention technology liaises harmoniously with the exquisite atmosphere of the ceremonial halls.

**HOTEL BRISTOL**

A LUXURY COLLECTION HOTEL

Vienna

**HOTEL IMPERIAL**

A LUXURY COLLECTION HOTEL

Vienna