

**Statement of Kristen Silverberg**  
**Nominee for U.S. Representative to the European Union**  
**Senate Foreign Relations Committee**  
**June 19, 2008**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am deeply honored to appear before you today as President Bush's nominee to serve as United States Representative to the European Union. I would like to begin by thanking President Bush and Secretary Rice for their trust and confidence in nominating me for this important position. It has been my great privilege to represent the United States for the last three years as Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs and for the previous four years as a policy advisor to the President.

For the last 60 years, our agenda with Europe has been principally about Europe. From the passage of the Marshall Plan, to the defeat of communism, to our support for new democracies in Central and Eastern Europe, the United States has worked to support a Europe that is free, united, and prosperous. And while that work continues even today, especially as we support Kosovo's independence, Europe has made tremendous strides. Today, the 27 countries of the European Union (EU) form a single market with, collectively, the largest economy in the world, and Europe's leaders are working to ensure that the EU has the will and capacity to fulfill its responsibilities as a global leader.

Indeed, today, Europe is our leading partner in advancing freedom and prosperity around the globe. As we work closely with Europe to promote democracy and the rule of law, confront international terrorism, prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and defend international human rights, we depend on what President Bush has called "a powerful and purposeful Europe that advances the values of liberty within its borders, and beyond."

With respect to countless global issues, the strength of our partnership with the European Union (EU) will help determine success or failure in the months and years ahead.

- To prevent nuclear proliferation, continued U.S.-EU cooperation will be necessary to convince Iran to suspend its enrichment and reprocessing activities as demanded by four UN Security Council resolutions;

- To strengthen our economies, we must work together to lower regulatory barriers and unleash our full economic potential with more trade, investment, and innovation; we must work to negotiate an ambitious, market-opening agreement in the Doha trade round;
- We must together encourage Russia to play a constructive role on the international stage, improve human rights within its borders and bring its energy resources to markets within a free and competitive framework;
- To address climate change, we must work to bring all major economies into a global agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- To advance peace in the Middle East, we should work together to support Israeli and Palestinian peace efforts;
- Standing together, we can strengthen governments in Iraq and Afghanistan against terrorist threats and support a democracy in Lebanon as it resists foreign interference;
- Working together, we must defeat HIV/AIDS and malaria, and help developing countries support their own development by promoting good governance and responsible free market practices;
- And, we must join forces to defend human rights and promote democratic reform in countries like Burma, Zimbabwe, and Cuba.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, on these and many issues, our relationship with the European Union will continue to be vital to our ability to support peace, stability, and prosperity.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with the Members and staff of this Committee to strengthen our relationship with the leadership and people of the European Union for the benefit of both sides of the Atlantic and the global community.

Thank you again for granting me the honor of appearing before you today. I look forward to answering any questions.

