

# **"The United States, Europe and the World Trading System"**

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**"The Kangaroo Group"**

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## **As prepared for delivery:**

I would like to start by thanking the "Kangaroo Group" for inviting me to speak. Since 1979 you have been a welcome voice for free trade and free movement in Europe. Your choice of the kangaroo as a mascot is fitting, given its ability to make great forward progress in leaps and bounds.

This is my first trip to Europe as the United States Trade Representative, so it is a pleasure to start in Strasbourg, a city where Goethe studied, Pasteur taught, and Gutenberg lived. The faces of this region occupy a special place in the memories of those Americans who first entered the United States through New York Harbor. They would see the Statue of Liberty, a gift from France, designed by Auguste Bartholdi, a son of France. The face of Liberty is Bartholdi's mother, a woman of Alsace.

I am pleased that my first speech in Europe in this post is to members of the European Parliament. Building on the Amsterdam Treaty, this Parliament is determining a new and important role in the European system.

Over the past few months, various European leaders have been proffering visions for the future of the European Union. It is an exciting time. Debates are stirring; ideas are clashing.

Of course, these constitutional questions are for Europeans to resolve. As you do, I hope that the democratically elected leaders of this European institution keep in mind that the core values that infuse the New Europe are not limited by geographical propinquity. Like the Statue of Liberty - made in Europe, erected in America, welcoming people from around the world - the Euro-Atlantic community stands for universal principles.

We must work together to advance these shared values and common interests. We must cooperate in promoting democracy, freedom, open markets, and societal and individual opportunity. As this Parliament did two years ago, I hope you will continue to promote accountable and transparent governance. I hope you will also be an ally in launching a new round of global trade negotiations later this year to promote growth and openness. And of course you will understand if I at least hope the Parliament will press for reforms in the Common Agricultural Policy, so the European Union can save money, enlarge to include Central and Eastern European nations, restore public confidence in agriculture, and open European ports to delightful food from around the world!