



## EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

The transatlantic relationship is complex, comprising political as well as economic and cultural aspects. We are further linked to the United States by a long friendship, which has evolved over time. By implementing the Marshall Plan after World War II, the USA provided one of the foundations for the German Economic Miracle. Germany's integration into the transatlantic security community of NATO was instrumental in setting the course for security cooperation between the two countries.

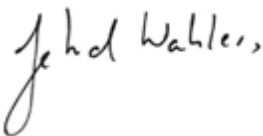
Germans and Americans share values and interests that go back to common cultural roots to some extent. About 50 million, i.e. some 15 per cent of Americans, are of German descent; over a million people in the USA speak German at home. German-Americans represent the largest single ethnic group in the USA. They maintain German traditions in numerous associations. And hundreds of thousands of people travel across the Atlantic every year – as tourists, participants in exchange programs, scientists, and school and university students.

We also share interests where the economy is concerned. Since July 2013, the European Union and the USA have conducted negotiations about a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), which will not only entail far-reaching consequences for the economic development of the two parties, but also have the potential to effect sustainable changes in the perspective of values and standards as well as in the global trading and welfare system. In view of the scope of this comprehensive trade agreement, the TTIP plans have raised a number of economic and political issues, eliciting controversial discussions on both sides of the Atlantic; these have not been conducted altogether objectively and based on the facts in the German public arena. For this reason, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung has made the TTIP a priority theme. Considering the emergence of other actors, who are intent on shaping the world order according to their own rules – first and foremost the People's Republic of China – the transatlantic partnership is gaining in new geostrategic importance. We should there-

fore not hesitate to embrace the opportunities a transatlantic trading area would offer us to remain a key player at a global level.

In terms of security policy, the transatlantic partners are facing numerous challenges. The annexation of Crimea in contravention of international law, the Russian aggression in Ukraine, Islamist terror in Syria and Iraq, Iran's demands for a nuclear program – these all represent attacks on our liberal order and our Western basic values by authoritarian regimes or non-state actors, which require concerted action. Close cooperation and a continuous dialogue between the Western partners will be essential prerequisites. The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung offers discussion forums for politicians and consultants on both sides of the Atlantic. It is intent on attracting further actors from German, European and U.S. politics to engage in the transatlantic dialogue.

With this issue of the International Reports, we would like to contribute to deepening this dialogue and highlight those aspects that are fundamental to the transatlantic relationship – today and in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerhard Wahlers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Gerhard Wahlers  
Deputy Secretary General

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