

José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission

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Dear distinguished guests,

My thoughts are with you as you celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Transatlantic Institute's opening in Brussels.

On this special occasion I would like to express my interest and support for your initiative and work. In times of global tensions, it is indeed crucial to encourage and to share connections between historical partners.

My commitment to strengthen the transatlantic relationship has been constant since my appointment as President of the European Commission. In this respect, I am pleased by the recent opening of negotiations for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership.

Transatlantic cooperation is not just a matter of economics or politics. What feeds our special link is also common values regarding the respect for human rights, including the freedom of belief and the protection of minorities. In this context, the involvement of the Jewish community to bring our respective societies closer is full of meaning.

I wish you a happy and successful celebration; enjoy this evening dedicated to friendship between the EU and the USA!

Yours sincerely,



José Manuel BARROSO

Mr Daniel SCHWAMMENTHAL
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