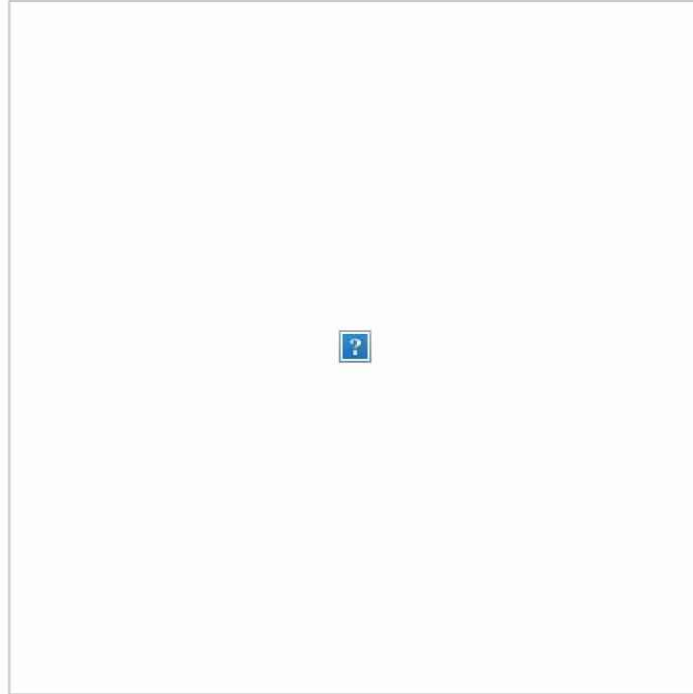
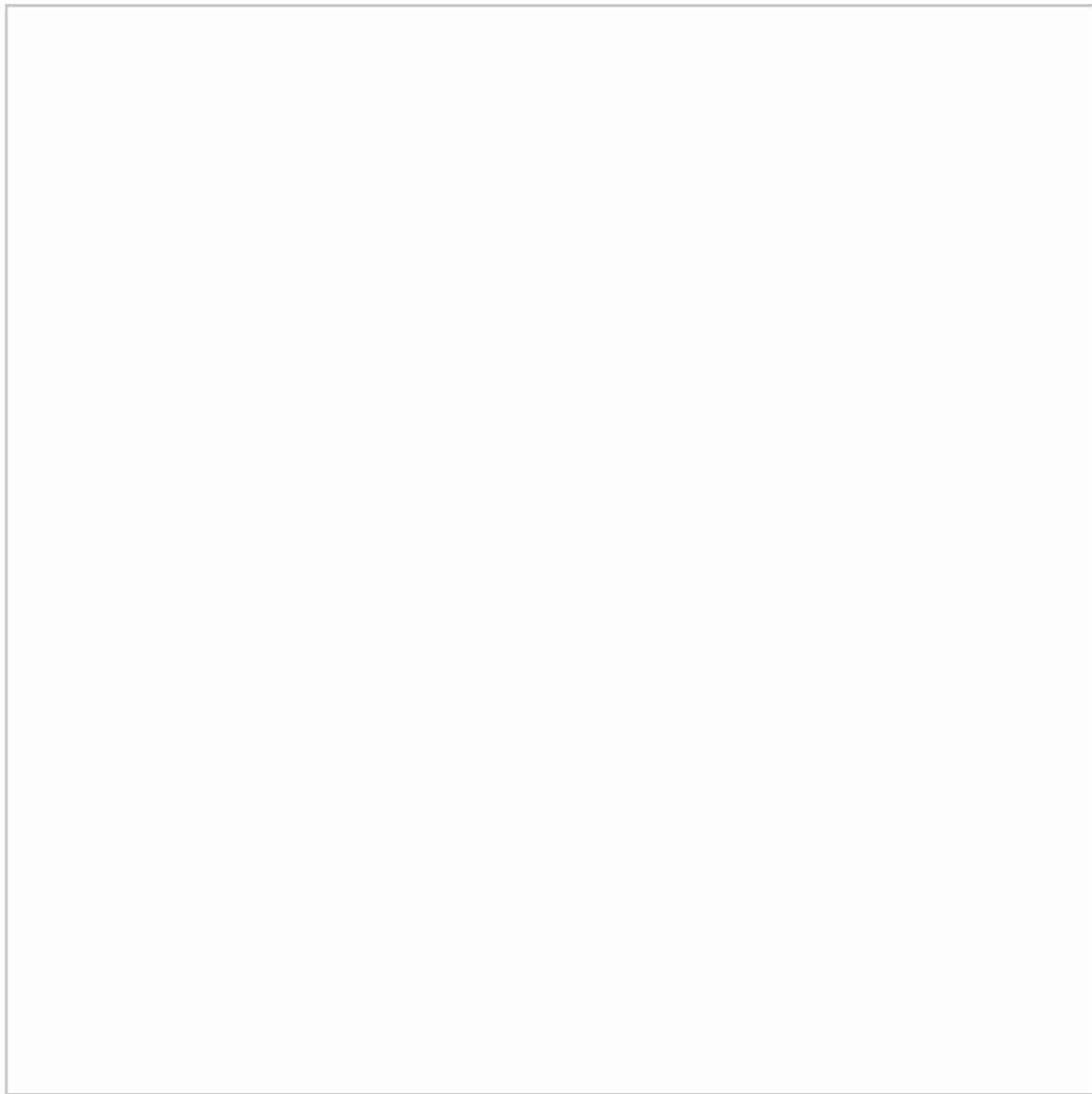


**From:** [Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Washington, DC](#)  
**To:** [Jayne Peters](#)  
**Subject:** The Delegation Debrief | February Edition  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 25, 2026 4:02:26 PM

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**Dear DGIC Friends,**

**Major developments at both the federal and local levels are reshaping the transatlantic business environment. A recent decision by the Supreme Court has overturned broad tariffs imposed by President Trump, a move with significant implications for trade flows, pricing, and long-term economic planning. Closer to home, Virginia continues to attract robust investment in cybersecurity, highlighting sustained demand and new opportunities across both the public and private sectors. Read on for more on these developments, updates on infrastructure investment across the United States, and a preview of upcoming events.**

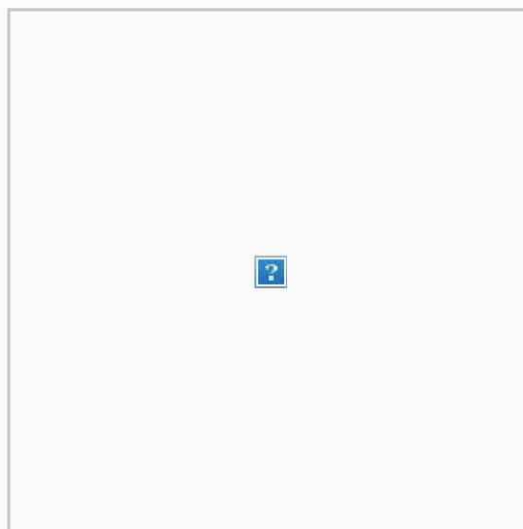
## Focus on Greater Washington

**Cybersecurity Firm Opens Up  
New Office Space in VA**

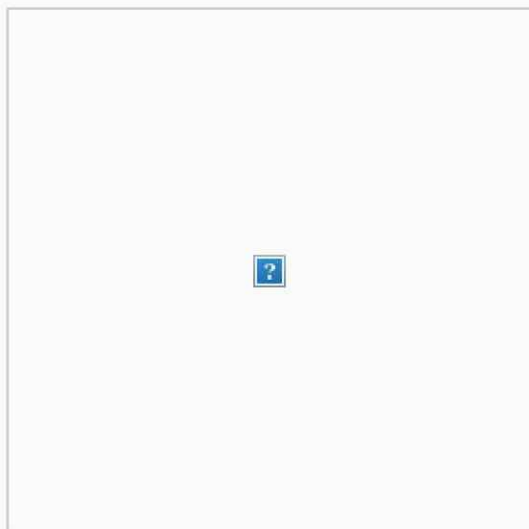
The cybersecurity company, KnowBe4, recently announced the opening of their new office in Arlington, Virginia, reinforcing the DMV region's reputation as one of the nation's most attractive hubs for cybersecurity and technology investment. By expanding its footprint just outside of Washington, DC, KnowBe4 is tapping into a dense ecosystem of federal agencies, policymakers, research institutions, and private-sector innovators that uniquely positions the region for growth.

[Read more from Business Wire](#)

*Image courtesy of unsplash.com | Adi Goldstein*



## Economic Policy Highlights



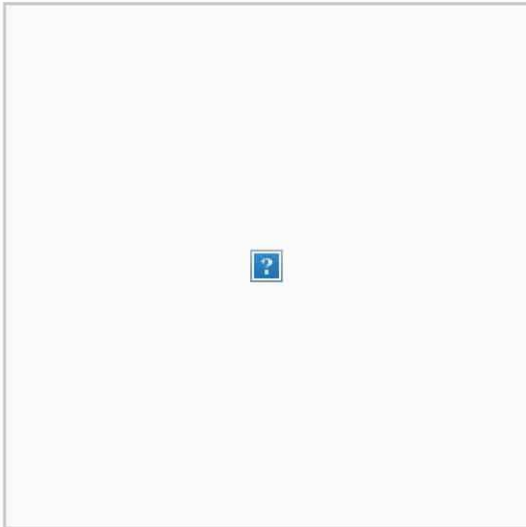
### **Supreme Court Strikes Down Trump Tariffs**

The Representative of German Industry & Trade reported that, in a 6-3 ruling, the Supreme Court invalidated President Donald Trump's former broad use of tariffs imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. The majority concluded that the 1977 statute does not empower a president to levy import taxes across most global trading partners. The Court emphasized that Congress—not the Executive Branch—holds explicit authority over tariffs under Article I. In dissent, Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, and Brett Kavanaugh argued that the law afforded greater discretion in emergencies. The decision ultimately reinforces judicial limits on presidential power when economic policy actions lack clear congressional authorization.

[Read the Supreme Court ruling here](#)

*Image courtesy unsplash.com | Tim Mossholder*

### **ESTA Proposals under**

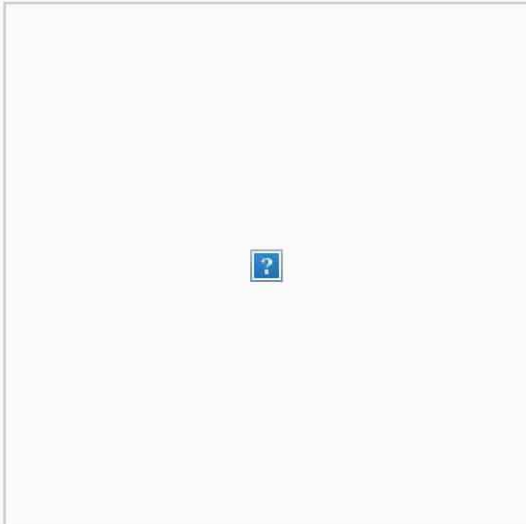


## **Consideration**

Recent proposals to the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) framework suggest significant expansion on how identities of the Visa Waiver Program travelers are verified, with stronger enhancements in biometrics and digital identity verification. Measures under consideration include shifting ESTA submissions to a mobile-app-based process, requiring real-time selfie capture that is matched against passport chip data, and collecting broader personal information such as social media accounts, contact details, and selected family data. The biometric scope would extend beyond facial recognition to potentially include fingerprints and iris scans, while genetic data is referenced only as a theoretical future option rather than an active requirement. It is important to note that the ESTA proposal is not yet a final rule.

[Official ESTA updates can be monitored on their website](#)

*Image courtesy [unsplash.com](#) | Ivan Shimko*



## **Infrastructure Expansion Continues in the U.S.**

U.S. infrastructure activity is expected to keep expanding even as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act winds down at the end of 2026 and no successor program is in place. Although the early momentum from the \$550 billion package is fading and real civil-engineering output dipped slightly in 2025, analysts see this as a temporary pause rather than a structural slowdown. Overall, despite political headwinds and protectionist rules, U.S. infrastructure expansion is set to continue and still offers opportunities for both domestic and foreign firms.

[Read more from our partner Germany Trade & Invest \(GTAI\) \(in German\)](#)

*Image courtesy [unsplash.com](#) | Vizag Explore*

## Looking Ahead...



### **2026 German-American Executive Summit March 5-6 | New Orleans, LA**

**We are one week away from the second annual German American Executive Summit!**

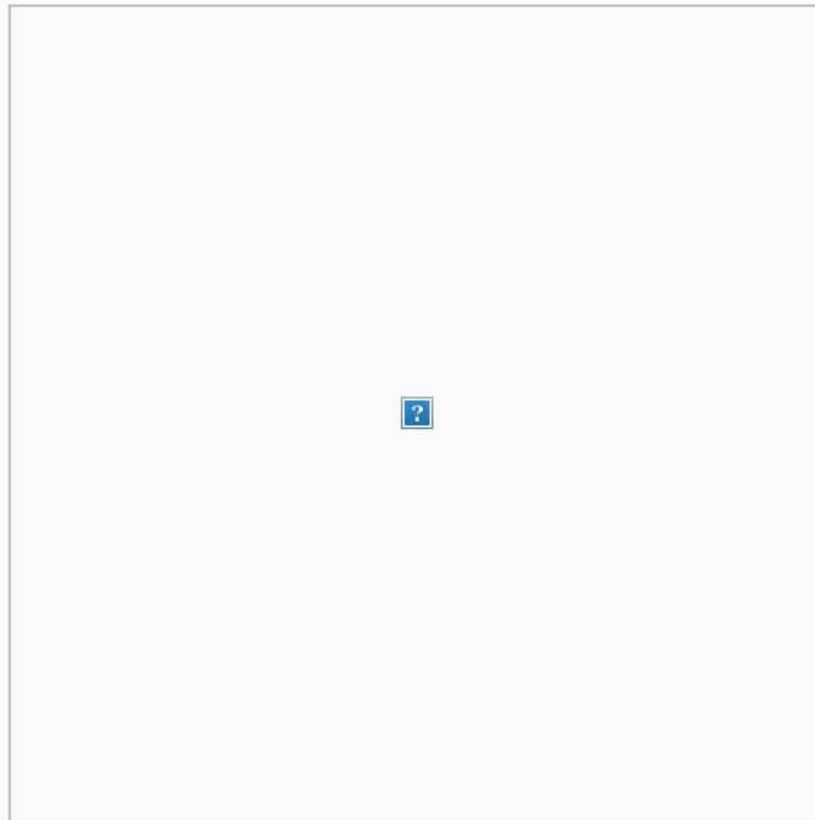
The German American Executive Summit convenes leaders from the German-American business community nationwide, offering a high-impact forum to build new connections, deepen strategic partnerships, and advance transatlantic cooperation.

The results of the German American Business Outlook (GABO) survey will be unveiled for

the first time at the Summit, taking place March 5–6, 2026, in New Orleans. As a joint initiative of all five German American Chambers of Commerce in the United States, the event brings together senior executives from diverse industries for two days of insight and exchange. Program highlights include participation from leading German companies, a keynote address by German Ambassador Jens Hanefeld, and the German American Business Awards Gala Dinner recognizing excellence in transatlantic business.

[Agenda & Registration](#)

[Sponsorship Opportunities](#)



## **The WunderbarTogether Gala May 1 | Washington, DC**

Join us for the WunderbarTogether Gala on May 1, hosted by the German International School (GIS)! The WunderbarTogether Gala celebrates the remarkable partnership between Germany and the U.S., reflecting the spirit of the WunderbarTogether Campaign initiated by the German Federal Foreign Office and implemented by the Goethe-Institut in 2018. More than a celebration, the Gala is a powerful expression of the GIS mission: to

educate and inspire globally minded students who bridge cultures, languages, and nations.

This year, gategroup will be honored with the Global Unity Award, celebrating the enduring partnership between global industry and international education. DGIC President & CEO Christoph Schemioneck is also pleased to deliver welcome remarks at this year's Gala.

[About the Gala](#)

[Ticket Information](#)

## Thank you to our Business Partners



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