



The Delegation Debrief | July Edition

From Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Washington, DC <info@washington.ahk.de>

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Delegation of German Industry and Commerce
in Washington, DC
Delegation der Deutschen Wirtschaft
in Washington, DC



Dear DGIC Friends,

This Delegation Debrief edition brings together the latest developments shaping the transatlantic business landscape, from new trade policies and economic rankings to opportunities for advocacy and engagement. We highlight Virginia's recognition as one of the nation's top states for business, key findings from the latest German American Business Outlook, and important updates on the EU–U.S. trade agreement and evolving customs requirements. You'll also find information on our upcoming DC Fly-In, where German companies can engage directly with policymakers on the impact of U.S. tariff policy, as well as a new website page featuring business events across Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. Whether you're looking to stay informed, expand your network, or make your voice heard, this edition offers valuable insights and opportunities. Read on to learn more.

Focus on Greater Washington

Virginia ranks #3 state for business

Virginia has once again earned national recognition, ranking #3 in the U.S. as one of the best states to do business. This achievement reflects the Commonwealth's strong economy, skilled workforce, competitive business climate, and exceptional quality of life. From innovation and infrastructure to affordability and talent, Virginia continues to stand out as a premier destination for businesses to grow and succeed. The rankings also highlight how Virginia performs across key categories like economy, workforce, quality of life, cost of doing business, and more. Whether you're considering expansion, relocation, or investment, these results reinforce why Virginia remains a top choice.

[Explore the full rankings and see how Virginia scored in each category.](#)

Image courtesy of unsplash.com | Derrick Brooks



Economic Policy Highlights



Tariff impacts on German businesses operating in the U.S.

The German American Business Outlook (GABO) revealed that tariffs have become the top concern for German companies operating in the United States, surpassing workforce challenges as the leading business issue. While concerns around workforce availability, trade tensions, and inflation remain, they have all fallen in the rankings as tariffs and political uncertainty take center stage. According to the survey, 86% of respondents report experiencing negative impacts from tariffs, with 56% citing the financial burden and more than 30% pointing to the administrative burden as major challenges. These findings underscore the growing pressure tariff policies are placing on German

businesses with U.S. operations.

[View the full GABO results and gain deeper insights into the challenges shaping today's business environment.](#)

If your company is feeling the effects of current tariff policies, [consider joining our upcoming fly-in to Washington, D.C.](#), to help ensure German businesses [have a voice in conversations](#) about how these policies are impacting operations in the United States.

Image courtesy [unsplash.com](#) | Quilia



What companies need to know about the EU-U.S. trade agreement

Since July 1, the new EU–U.S. trade agreement has reduced or eliminated tariffs on many U.S. imports into the EU, creating cost savings while introducing stricter documentation and compliance requirements. During a recent Germany Trade & Invest (GTAI) webinar, customs experts explained how companies can take advantage of the new rules and avoid common pitfalls. Businesses seeking duty-free treatment must be able to demonstrate U.S. origin under customs regulations and document the direct transport of goods, as a simple "Made in USA" label is not enough. The webinar also highlighted that U.S. customs policy remains complex, with product-specific tariffs, evolving regulations, and potential changes to additional duties requiring close attention.

[Read more from our partners at Germany Trade & Invest and view the webinar presentation \(in German\)](#)

Image courtesy: [Transatlantic tensions: US and EU containers on collision course under stormy skies](#) | Getty Images / J Studios

Upcoming Events



Join us in Washington, DC for our DC Fly-In on U.S. Tariff Policy taking place September 23–24, 2026.

This exclusive program brings together German subsidiaries for direct discussions with U.S. policymakers, industry leaders, and key stakeholders on how evolving tariff policies are affecting business operations, supply chains, and investment decisions. Participants will gain valuable insights, build meaningful connections, and help amplify the voice of German industry in Washington.

Tentative Agenda:

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Individual arrival to Washington, DC
Welcome Briefing & Overview of Program

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Meetings with:
U.S. Congress
U.S. Administration
German Embassy
U.S. Trade Representatives

The program concludes with networking at DGIC's annual Oktoberfest, providing another opportunity to connect with fellow business leaders. Only four spots remain, so early registration is encouraged. Click the link below to reserve your place today.

Secure Your Spot

ICYMI



Looking to expand your network or stay informed on topics shaping the business community in the DMV?

Our website now features a curated calendar of upcoming events taking place across Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia (DMV) that may be of interest to professionals and organizations in the region. From industry conferences and networking opportunities to policy discussions, the page highlights a variety of events worth exploring. We will update the page periodically as new opportunities become available, so be sure to check back regularly.

Please note that these events are hosted by other organizations and are shared as a resource for our community. Click the link below to browse upcoming events and find opportunities to connect, learn, and engage.

Image courtesy: unsplash.com | Jakob Dalbjoern

Upcoming DMV Events

Thank you to our Business Partners



Learn more about our Business Partners:

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Join DGIC's Business Partnership Program

We'd love to hear from you! If your company has any exciting insights or topics you'd like us to cover in our newsletters, reach out to Jayne Peters!

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