

THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

OCT 21 2004

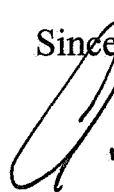
Dear Günter:

As you prepare to depart Washington, I want to express my appreciation and that of my colleagues in the Department of State for your commitment and service to strengthening transatlantic relations. Just helping to manage our enormous economic relationship with its ups and downs has been a demanding and important task for you during the past four years. I know, however, that you have consistently worked to build our transatlantic partnership in many other areas, whether it be the reconstruction of Afghanistan and Iraq or enhancing our bilateral cooperation in aviation security and science and technology research. Your consistent work to encourage the European Union and the United States to focus on common interests, despite momentary differences on some issues, and to further our partnership on a wide range of international issues is much appreciated by your friends and colleagues on both sides of the Atlantic.

Your long and distinguished career demonstrates that one can be a committed supporter of European integration and of strong and active cooperation and coordination between America and Europe. Please know that you leave Washington with the sincere thanks of many Americans for your dedicated service of many, many years to building and strengthening the global partnership between the United States and the European Union.

You have my appreciation and best wishes for the path ahead.

Sincerely,



Colin L. Powell

His Excellency

Dr. Günter Burghardt

Ambassador for the European Union to the United States  
Washington, D.C.