



January 19, 2021, Zürich, Switzerland

Open letter to President-elect Joe Biden

Congratulations, Mister President!

Mister President, tomorrow, you will get sworn-in as the 46th President of the United States of America on the steps of the Capitol, the cherished symbol of freedom and democracy. We would like to send our sincere congratulations and best wishes for your crucial role in the coming years.

We at the Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce always remained confident that the USA would rise above the challenges the administration of the past four years had caused and overcome the unruly and unacceptable attacks on the epitome of democracy and freedom. We kept reminding our Swiss audience of the true character of the US nation – a Leader of the Free World and World Business Champion.

Your “First 100 Days”, the proverbial political honeymoon, fall into a time of unprecedented pandemic, economic and democratic challenges that will demand tough choices. We trust in the vast experience and sound judgment you and your very talented cabinet have.

The United States of America and Switzerland are known as “Sister Republics”. Our countries are amongst the oldest and most stable democracies. We share strong values of individual rights and the freedom to express these openly, all underlined by trusted rule of law. Both countries also rank highly in competitiveness and innovation.

Economically, we have been fostering rich and mutually beneficial win-win relations. The USA are the top export market for Swiss goods, and Switzerland has a large trade surplus in goods. Conversely, the USA enjoy a large trade surplus in services, a large surplus in corporate taxes paid, in R&D investments, in jobs and in direct investments. Switzerland is the 6th largest foreign direct investor in the USA.

We trust that the USA soon will reemerge as the “Beacon of Hope for the World”, the “Shining City on the Hill”. Quoting former President John F. Kennedy: “We must always consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill—the eyes of all people are upon us. Today the eyes of all people are truly upon us — and our governments, in every branch, at every level, national, state and local, must be as a city upon a hill — constructed and inhabited by men aware of their great trust and their great responsibilities.”

We will continue to leverage the great US-Swiss relations to drive economic progress and innovation and promote the values so dear to both our countries. We hope to be able to host you in Switzerland soon, bringing the country's democratic heritage to life at the "Rütli Wiese", where courageous people voted for freedom 730 years ago; engaging in an ever so important dialogue on human rights at the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, founded 157 years ago and entrusted with the Human Rights Convention; and showcasing engineering and infrastructure excellence at the Gotthard Tunnel, first built in 1872 and today the world's longest railway tunnel.

The Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce – the second largest Amcham in Europe – and all our members will do everything we can to support your programs and ensure strong and successful win-win relations between our Sister Republics.

We wish you the very best for what looks likely to be a "three-dimensional speed chess game". We need and very much cherish an "America United".

Yours faithfully

Silvio Napoli
Chairman and President
Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce
and Chairman Schindler Elevator Group

Martin Naville
CEO
Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce