

## **U.S. Mission to the OECD Paris, France**

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### President Bush Delivers Keynote Address at OECD

Considered the centerpiece of his European trip, President George W. Bush delivered a keynote address at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris on Friday, June 13. Although the U.S. is a founding member of the Organization, this is the first time in the OECD's 47 year history that a U.S. President has visited the Organization's headquarters. Mrs. Bush visited the OECD in 2002 and spoke about education policy.

Addressing an audience of over 600, President Bush praised the work of the OECD which grew from the Marshall Plan's design to assist U.S. allies to promote open economies and strong free market policies across Europe. President Bush highlighted that much has changed since then but "what has not changed is the friendship between American and France." He went on to say that whoever inherits the White House will also take custody of "the broadest and most vibrant" transatlantic ties ever.

Welcoming President Bush to the OECD, Ambassador Christopher Egan, U.S. Permanent Representative to the Organization, noted that, "We are delighted President Bush has come to the OECD to reinforce the importance of multilateral dialogue and diplomacy." He went on to explain that, "In an increasingly globalized world, countries must work together to build strong economies built on free and open markets. This is what the OECD has always done and will continue to do in the future."

In his 25 minute address, President Bush outlined the vibrant European-American relationship and their common quest for peace, liberty and security. "Spreading the hope of freedom is the calling of our time," stated President Bush. "And as we look ahead to the great task, we can be guided by four key principles: unity, confidence, vision, and resolve."

President Bush was joined by Mrs. Bush, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, OECD Secretary General Angel Gurría and Ambassadors from the Organization's 30 member countries.

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For more information contact:

Jane Delbene

+ 33 1 45 24 74 26

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