

## *A Message from Texas Governor Rick Perry*



### **STATE OF TEXAS OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

#### **Greetings:**

As Governor of Texas, I am pleased to welcome you to the 3rd Annual Texas-EU Business Summit.

The Lone Star State was built on the dreams of entrepreneurs and adventurers who dared to chart their own paths. Staying true to our great state's legacy of innovation, businesses throughout Texas continue to blaze new trails of success.

We are proud to lay claim to America's top economy. The proof of the Lone Star State's strength is plain to see: CEOs have named Texas the best state for business nine years in a row. We are proud of our top-ranked business climate. Thanks to our responsible regulations, low taxes and an environment that fosters job creation and business prosperity, opportunities abound for all companies, from start-ups to established operations looking to expand.

But Texans realize that economic prosperity is achieved not just through strong economic policies, but also through cooperation with countries in all parts of the globe. Texas has been the top exporting state in the nation for the past 12 years, and we trade with more than 200 countries, including all EU members. In fact, Texas is the No. 1 exporting state to the EU, with more than \$29.6 billion exported in 2013. International trade and tourism are critical sources of employment for many Texans, and we must continue to foster these mutually beneficial ties with our friends around the world.

I trust this summit will be a wonderful opportunity for everyone to maximize their prospects for international business.

First Lady Anita Perry joins me in sending best wishes for a productive and memorable day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rick Perry  
Governor