



EVERYTHING MATTERS

EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGY LEADERS SUMMIT



Secretary Cohen

Former US Secretary of Defense and
Chairman of the Cohen Group

Secretary William S. Cohen is the chairman and CEO of The Cohen Group, a strategic business consulting firm based in Washington, DC, with offices in China and India, which assists multinational clients from all sectors of the economy to develop and implement strategic plans, identify and pursue business opportunities, identify and manage risks, and overcome problems in markets around the world. The Cohen Group has an exclusive strategic alliance with DLA Piper, where Secretary Cohen also holds the title of Strategic Advisor.

Prior to his current position, Secretary Cohen had a long career in public service. He served as the 20th U.S. Secretary of Defense, from January 1997 to January 2001, where he oversaw the largest organization in the U.S. with a budget of \$300 billion and three million military and civilian personnel. As Defense Secretary he was responsible for: reversing a decade-and-a-half of continuous decline in the defense budget and the defense procurement budget, which he increased by nearly 50 percent; the largest military pay raise in a generation; and adoption of electronic commerce and other best business practices in the defense department. In addition, under his leadership, the United States military conducted the largest air warfare campaign at the time in Bosnia and Kosovo since World War II and conducted military operations on every continent. His term as Secretary of Defense marked the first time in modern U.S. history that a President has chosen an elected official from the other party to be a member of his cabinet.

As a three-term United States Senator (1979 to 1997), he was a recognized expert on defense and international issues, foreign intelligence, health care, and government procurement. He also served in the U.S. House of Representatives for three terms (1973 to 1979). While in Congress, he served on the House Judiciary Committee during the President Nixon impeachment proceedings in 1974 and on the Iran-Contra Committee in 1987. Before being elected to U.S. federal office, Secretary Cohen served as a District Attorney and then as Mayor of Bangor, Maine (1971 to 1972).

Secretary Cohen was born in Bangor and received a B.A. in Latin from Bowdoin College (1962), and a law degree from Boston University Law School (1965). He currently serves as a member of the board of CBS Corporation. He has written or co-authored a dozen books – including five non-fiction works, five novels, and two books of poetry.

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