



April 2019

In my last update to you in early February, I outlined our intention to strengthen and renew the Transatlantic Policy Network in the following ways:

1. renew and extend the political membership of TPN on both sides of the Atlantic;
2. develop an interactive, engaging program, both in Brussels and D.C., which builds on the best traditions of TPN; and
3. begin an exercise that will engage our participants, and other stakeholders, in developing an action-oriented, constructive, and forward-looking agenda for transatlantic cooperation, both in the short and longer term, and refreshing the policy groundings of the network.

Since then, the team has been working hard in each of these areas and I would like to share with you our progress and to look ahead over the next six months or so.

1. Political membership

On the EU side, we have carried out an analysis of our current political membership of TPN to ensure we are fully prepared to maintain and recruit new members following the European elections next month, and in the event that the United Kingdom leaves the EU. In both cases, we have as clear as possible an understanding of who is and isn't likely to return to the European Parliament.

TPN's European Parliament Committee of MEPs will meet on June 18th to review the outcome of the elections and assist in the recruitment of new members.

The focal point of this concerted effort will be our **reception for Members of the new European Parliament**, which will take place in Strasbourg on **July**

3rd.

All members of TPN are invited to this meeting and precise details will follow in the coming weeks. We very much hope that you can not only encourage new and returning Members in your network to join us for this occasion but also keep TPN in mind as you make your rounds of Members, new and old, in the coming months, promoting involvement in TPN with them and sharing potential candidates with us.

In the meantime, new and welcome additions to the TPN MEP Group include:

- **Victor Boștinaru MEP** (*S&D Romania*) > [More information](#)
- **Tanja Fajon MEP** (*S&D Slovenia*) > [More information](#)
- **Kati Piri MEP** (*S&D Netherlands*) > [More information](#)
- **Adina-Ioana Vălean MEP** (*EPP Romania*) > [More information](#)

On the US side, I am delighted to say that our efforts to recruit new members of TPN from Congress have resulted in the following agreeing to join:

- **Congressman Darin LaHood** (*Republican - Illinois 18th District*), who serves on the House Ways and Means Committee and the Joint Economic Committee > [More information](#)
- **Congressman David Schweikert** (*Republican - Arizona 6th District*), who serves on the House Ways and Means Committee > [More information](#)

Finally, as you may know, TPN's US Chair, Congressman **Jim Costa**, has also been appointed as the US Chair of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue.

2. Programming

TPN has had a busy first quarter in both Brussels and Washington D.C. with respect to our programming.

In Brussels, we held an extremely well-attended reception on February 5th to mark the retirement of **Vivien Haig**, (and her accession to the Board), as well as providing me with the opportunity to set out the vision for TPN going forward. We were delighted so many TPN participants, MEPs, and representatives from the EU institutions, including European Commission Secretary General, **Martin Selmayr**, were able to join us on this occasion.

We subsequently held roundtable meetings on sustainable energy policy, with Director-General for Energy at the European Commission, **Dominique Ristori**; and on Trade, with **Jean-Luc Demarty**, Director General for Trade at the European Commission. Both roundtables were extremely well attended with robust, constructive discussions and good ideas emerging from both.

We were also delighted to host Congressman **Jim Costa**, during his visit to Brussels, who provided us with his own assessment of the transatlantic relationship following the US mid-term elections.

Looking ahead to our summer and autumn program, in addition to our Strasbourg Parliamentary reception on July 3, TPN will be hosting **David O'Sullivan**, who will provide his reflections on his time as the EU's Ambassador to the United States; and two security focused sessions, with **Antonio Missiroli**, Assistant Secretary-General at NATO, and **Matthew Bogdanos**, Assistant District Attorney for Manhattan and a Colonel in the US Marine Corps Reserve.

On the US side, TPN was delighted to co-host a reception on Capitol Hill with the European Parliament's Liaison Office and the EU Caucus in Congress, in honour of the visiting MEPs in the Transatlantic Legislators Dialogue. It provided another opportunity for TPN to set out its renewed vision, alongside Congressman **Jim Costa** and **Christian Ehler** MEP, (the EU Chair of the TLD), attracting six Members of Congress and well over a dozen MEPs.

We also hosted Congressman **David Schweikert** at a TPN roundtable in February, looking at the prospects for transatlantic trade relations in the short and long term.

Looking ahead to the spring and early summer, TPN will be hosting a congressional staff member briefing on the forthcoming EU institutional changes, including the elections to the European Parliament. In addition, we will be hosting roundtables for Congressman **Darin LaHood** and **Scott Pattison**, Chief Executive of the National Governors Association, who will provide their reflections on their recent visits to Europe and what they took away from them for the transatlantic relationship.

Finally, we are scheduling a roundtable with Congressman **Ron Kind** to provide his view on the transatlantic relationship, specifically from a trade perspective; and a briefing session with the European Union's new Ambassador to the United States, **Stavros Lambrinidis**.

Exact timings and details of all these and other forthcoming events will be circulated in due course and well in advance.

3. Renewing the transatlantic agenda

As you know from my last update, we want TPN to play an active role in feeding in ideas and thinking that can contribute to a renewal of the transatlantic agenda in the short, medium and long term. We want to do this in a structured way by bringing legislators and TPN participants (from academia, civil society, as well as business) to look at where we must work together across the Atlantic and where we should try to work together, even where there are particular challenges.

Our focus will be on the horizontal, geo-political challenges, as well as on distinct, yet interlinked, policy areas such as trade & investment, digital transformation, security and defense, and sustainable development.

In each area, we want to identify jointly actionable objectives for the TA

relationship, covering the short as well as the long term.

I have been encouraged by the political and business support for this initiative from my initial meetings on this subject so far and I will be convening informal meetings of TPN participants, before the end of May, to have your input and help further shape this, ready for launch at the TPN European Parliamentary Reception in Strasbourg in July, and its relationship to Transatlantic Week 2019, which we expect to take place at the end of November/ beginning of December this year.

4. Other business

The team has continued its efforts to reach out to all our stakeholders and partners, including the GMF, US Chamber, and AMCHAM, to look at where we can work together and collaborate to leverage all our work to renew and strengthen the transatlantic relationship. In the course of doing this, I would highly recommend the new platform on the economic value of the transatlantic relationship (<http://www.thrivingtogether.eu>) and a review of the speech on transatlantic relations by **Senator Bob Menendez** at the GMF in February. (<http://www.gmfus.org/events/keynote-speech-senator-bob-menendez-transatlantic-relations-changing-world>)

In order to attract new participants and stakeholders interested in our work, TPN is also upgrading its website (www.tponline.org) and its social media presence (Twitter: [@TPNOnline](https://twitter.com/TPNOnline)).

Finally, I am delighted to welcome **Philip Morris International** as our newest member of the Transatlantic Policy Network and to say that I am encouraged by the interest shown across the business community in our work. Consequently, I believe we have a healthy pipeline of potential members who I shall continue to work with in the coming months to sign up.

5. Gentle Reminder

We will keep you in touch with details of all meetings as they firm-up but as a reminder, TPN participation gives access to all conferences and meetings on both sides of the Atlantic for anyone from within the company or organization. We just need a contact person who informs us who will participate. We also provide support for many other initiatives where corporate participants and partners may want help with their visitors, e.g. tailor-made events and/or help with their own events.

