



# TPN

TRANSATLANTIC POLICY NETWORK

## Archived Document

### TPN FOREWORD

It has been 36 months since TPN came into being as a single organisation of politicians and business leaders from both sides of the Atlantic. Our mission from the outset has been to stimulate a recasting of the Transatlantic relationship so that it continues to serve the shared interests of Europeans and Americans as the world changes beyond all recognition from the world that gave birth to the NATO Alliance.

To this end, a year ago, TPN European members addressed a strategy recommendation to European leaders calling for a transition from Europe's predominantly defence-based relationship with the United States to a broader and more balance transatlantic political partnership.\* Since then, these ideas have been widely circulated and debated within the Network, with interim conclusions feeding into political, governmental, business, and academic leadership groups on both sides of the Atlantic.

Now, as 1996 approaches, we are greatly encouraged to see that transatlantic relations have emerged as a widely-voice political priority in Europe and the United States. During the first half of 1995, European Commission President Jacques Santer called for a genuine transatlantic treaty, British Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind propounded a vision of an 'Atlantic Community', and Daimler-Benz CEO, Edzard Reuter (among others), proposed a transatlantic free trade area. Other European voices calling for new transatlantic initiatives included German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and EU External Affairs Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan. In the US, these ideas were echoed, notably by Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich and Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who called for a major new transatlantic initiative.

In response, at their June EU/US summit, Presidents Clinton, Chirac (then President of the EU Council), and Santer appointed a joint Senior Level Representatives Group of EU and US administration officials to take the political initiative forward. The prospect is now for more explicit presidential commitments to joint action, perhaps as early as the next EU/US summit this coming December. And, in advance of that summit, an inaugural Transatlantic Business Dialogue will take place on November 10 and 11 in Seville, hosted by the Spanish government,

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\*TPN Report: *Toward Transatlantic Partnership: A European Strategy*. Published November 1994.

convened by the European Commission and the US Department of Commerce and involving over 100 European and American business leaders.

In short, the transatlantic 'movement' is rapidly gathering momentum in both Europe and the United States. The purpose of this document is to put forward a considered view on where we should go from here, why, and how. As usual, in preparing this document, the Rapporteurs intend to reflect the conclusions of a series of seminars and meetings held in Europe and the United States. It does not necessarily reflect the view of individual TPN members, participants, or cooperating organisations.