



TPN

TRANSATLANTIC POLICY NETWORK

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CHAIRMEN'S FOREWORD

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Six years ago, TPN came into being and now functions as a single organisation of political and business leaders from both sides of the Atlantic. Our mission today remains what it has been from the outset: to ensure that the Transatlantic relationship continues to serve the interests of our citizens as well over the next fifty years as it has since the birth of the NATO Alliance a half-century ago.

This third TPN Partnership report, building on our seminal 1994 and 1995 recommendations, sets out the TPN vision of future transatlantic partnership in more explicit terms, and makes new strategy recommendations based on recent progress and current political conditions.

In the decade since the Berlin wall came down, our agenda of common and competing interests has expanded rapidly, as has bilateral trade and investment. At the same time, the European Union has emerged as a global economic power on a par with the United States and will dispose of its own single currency in a few short months. Nevertheless, until very recently it had become deceptively easy to take post-cold-war transatlantic relations for granted. Outside of TPN circles, it is fair to say there has been little urgency felt for redefining common transatlantic purposes and recasting mutual commitments as the common threat, which gave birth to NATO, dissipated.

But such complacency is now suddenly giving way in the face of recent global economic turbulence, political instability and armed conflict in different parts of the world. Current events in Russia in particular now call for close cooperation between Europe and America.

As the effects of these conditions strike home, our citizens, media and business leaders increasingly remark the absence of strong, coordinated western leadership and institutions able to deal with them effectively. Indeed, one commentator in a general interest publication recently called for the creation of 'an economic NATO' – implicit recognition that our collective security no longer depends exclusively on military alliance. These new perceptions present us with an immediate political opportunity if we act decisively, and a growing long-term political risk if we do not.

The opportunity is to harness the growing collective powers of Europe to the long-established powers of the United States in a broadly based 21st-century transatlantic partnership. Central to that vision is the TPN concept of 'linkage', by which we mean linking our growing political and economic interests with our long-standing common defence and security structures through a comprehensive political framework. This will enable us to pursue our common global interests through joint action exploiting the full range of political, economic and security instruments at our collective disposal.

The risk is that we repeatedly fail to respond in a more unified way to events, fail to establish a partnership framework through which we can fulfil the social and economic promise of globalisation, and fail to rebalance transatlantic burden-sharing and power-sharing within our security alliance to better reflect Europe's economic strength. In that scenario, US perception of vital national interest in defending a complacent Europe wane, while our economic relationship drifts toward embittered conflict, competition and mutual distrust in the transatlantic market and around the world. That is a recipe for dividing not just our political leaderships, but ultimately our peoples

The price of future western disunity may be incalculable, but at least there is now growing recognition that it is not unimaginable, that we are going to have to work much more closely together to preserve our core political values in this rapidly changing world. The good news is that we are on the right track. The sustained efforts of TPN participants, along with many others, have produced intensifying transatlantic dialogue, collaboration and understanding across a broader front than ever before. The foundations have been laid for a quantum leap. Global conditions demand it, and the circumstances of history favour it. We come together next Spring in Washington to commemorate 50 years of NATO Alliance. Fifty years from now let the record show that the political course for full 21st century Transatlantic Partnership was set at the same moment.



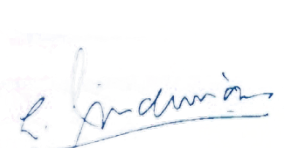
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30 September 1998