



TRANSATLANTIC VISION 2030 Renewing the partnership

Stimulating debate through thought papers

A New Transatlantic Partnership for the Digital Age

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Executive summary

Digital transformation has become the single most important driver of change across our economies and societies.

The future of our western democracies depends on common strategies and policies to transform the foundations of our economic prosperity, social cohesion, collective security and governance. This reality demands an interoperable Transatlantic policy framework fit for the digital age, and thus poses two questions for Transatlantic partners:

1. How to create an over-arching political commitment of sufficient strength to drive such a partnership;
2. What should be our initial priorities.

Political commitment: The 1995 New Transatlantic Agenda (NTA), agreed between the EU and US after the fall of the Soviet Union, provides a model for Transatlantic response to global shock. The NTA was the first commitment of the EU taken under the common foreign policy provisions of the 1993 Maastricht Treaty and was also endorsed by the US Congress and Administration.

However, not only has the NTA never been updated, the only reference in 1995 as to what would become our shared digital future is one pro forma allusion to a Transatlantic Information Society. We now need to create a new pathway to a partnership fully fit for the digital age via two mutually supportive pathways:

1. Create a digital dialogue with business, labor and consumer representatives to make recommendations by 2021 (see Bruce Stokes think piece, [A New Beginning for The Transatlantic Economic Partnership](#));
2. Update the NTA, first to agree the principles and values we share and wish to see prevail in the digital world of 2030.

Priorities: Priority digitally-driven issues can then be agreed on the basis of strength of EU as competent partner; degree of difficulty to converge policy and legislation in light of prevailing politics, importance of TA cooperation in global context.

The European Internet Forum's recently published assessment of the Top 10 Digital Trends in 2030 perspective provides a useful starting point for this exercise.