



TPN

TRANSATLANTIC POLICY NETWORK

BOARD STATEMENT

Thursday, 30 April 2020

Further to the latest TPN Update circulated to all TPN Members on 31 March, in which we announced that we are postponing all face-to-face meetings for the time being, there have been developments of an operational and organisational nature of which the Board would like to inform you. These decisions have been taken with a view to ensuring that TPN remains a viable, vibrant and relevant contributor to strengthening transatlantic relations in the months ahead.

OPERATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS:

After full consultation of the Steering and Business Committee chairs, the following approach for the TPN Programme 2020 - 2021 has been agreed:

“Given the exceptional circumstances in which we find ourselves on both sides of the Atlantic, in order to maintain the health and safety of our network, we have confirmed the postponement of face-to-face meetings until safe to resume, hopefully as early as the autumn. Regrettably, therefore, Transatlantic Week 2020 due to take place in the second half of July will now be postponed.

In its place, TPN will organise a virtual series of meetings running from May to July, the results of which will feed into the interim report, currently being drafted as part of the ongoing Transatlantic 2030 Vision exercise and scheduled to be released in early September.

The first of these meetings will take place in the early part of May with Rep Jim Costa and Danuta Huebner MEP kicking off the series taking an initial look at the broad implications of the Covid 19 pandemic for the Transatlantic relationship.

Furthermore, preparations are already well advanced for a strong autumn programme, including Commissioners Phil Hogan and Margaritis Schinas as well as officials from the US

administration, which will involve an active recruitment of MEPs and Members of Congress interested in transatlantic relations. Thus we will continue to engage on both sides of the Atlantic through the US election season, leading up to Transatlantic Week 2021.”

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS:

As a change in the staffing of TPN is imminent, the Board has taken the following decision to ensure continuity in operations.

“The Board has noted with regret that Mark Titterington has decided not to renew his contract due to an increase in other professional commitments. As a result, he felt that he would not be able to devote the time to TPN that this position deserves. He leaves his function as Director-General on 30 April.

TPN is grateful to Mark for his contribution to help shape the Network, laying firm foundations to build on in the future. In view of his strong commitment to the values and aims of TPN to strengthen Transatlantic Partnership, Mark has agreed to accept the offer of the Board to become a Senior Fellow so that he can remain in touch with TPN and support its activities.

We have now set in motion the process of recruiting a successor, being confident of making an appointment in the coming months. In the interim, Vivien Haig, who is now on the Board, has agreed to help ensure a seamless and smooth transition.

With the full support of the Board and its Chairman and with the assistance of Jörn Fleck and Suzi Szeredi and the TPN team, we can be certain that all programming and activities will continue within the official coronavirus guidelines in the normal manner.”

As always, we look forward to your active engagement and ideas. Vivien can be reached on vivien.haig@tpnonline.org and Jörn on jorn.fleck@tpnonline.org. We will keep you informed as to developments on a regular basis.

Stay safe and well.

JAMES ELLES

Chairman
TPN Board