



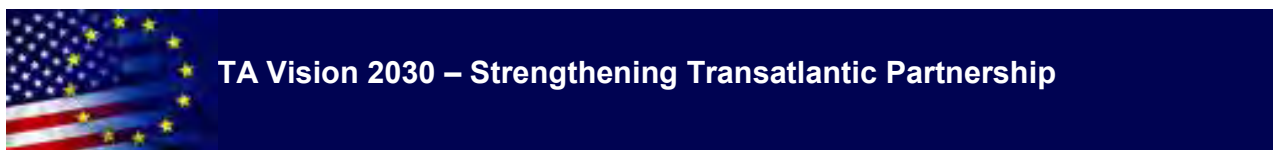
## **Building tomorrow's partnership today**

The next few weeks of holiday give us a welcome break from ground-breaking activity over the past six months. And, now is a good moment to see how TPN has responded to the exceptional circumstances since January 1.

We continued with the release of TPN Papers as part of the TA 2030 Vision exercise, ensuring that they were all accessible to members for comment in the private area of the website. Once lockdown became reality on both sides of the Atlantic, we moved online with alacrity, organising a virtual series to update the Papers in the light of Covid 19 for its possible effects on the transatlantic relationship. An interim report on this exercise will be published in the early autumn. We have also had online meetings as part of our normal programme. All events are listed in the private area of the website.

We will continue with the online series in the months ahead while organising face-to-face meetings when permitted to do so. Among events being planned, we are looking forward to welcoming Executive Vice President Margrethe Vestager in September. We will be focussing on recruiting more MEP members during the autumn and then more Members of the US Congress in the New Year, following the US Presidential elections in November.

We have warmly welcomed Danuta Hübner MEP as our new EU Steering Committee chairman as well as Kati Piri MEP as our new chair of the Advisory European Parliamentary Committee. But we have also said goodbye to Mark Titterton as our DG (who will become a Senior Fellow). Jörn and I are now running TPN's activities. It is great to be involved. And, as you will see below, we have been busy!



Work formally began on this project in early 2019. TPN wanted to find a means to continue to play an active role in generating ideas and thinking that could contribute to a renewal of the transatlantic partnership and agenda through to 2030.

The initiative began with a political declaration in support of strengthening and renewing the transatlantic partnership. Since its launch on both sides of the Atlantic in July 2019, it has attracted signatures from around 50 MEPs and Members of the US Congress. Thought pieces were then commissioned from expert authors in the areas of politics, security, digital, economics and sustainability. All these papers are now available in the private area of the website with their executive summaries.

To provide feed into these papers concerning the effect of Covid-19 on the transatlantic relationship, TPN has brought together Members of the European Parliament and Members of the US Congress in a series of virtual dialogues on different aspects of the relationship:

- Our US and EU chairs **Rep. Jim Costa and Danuta Huebner MEP** kicked off the series by examining the post-crisis landscape in all its dimensions. This exchange highlighted the degree to which we have shared interests across the Atlantic and the need to work together as we come through the pandemic.
- **Rep Darin LaHood and Reinhard Bütikofer MEP** discussed the political aspects of the relationship, noting one of the key challenges post-Covid-19 would be to work together on a bipartisan basis on how to handle China, finding much common ground on which to build.
- **Rep Will Hurd and Paul Tang MEP** discussed key elements for a transatlantic partnership 2030 fit for a digital age, agreeing that the global nature of the digital world made it essential to promote and strengthen international alliances.
- **Rep David Schweikert and Daniel Caspary MEP** discussed ways in which the TA Partners should cooperate to promote EU/US economic cooperation, focussing in particular on the need for WTO reform.

The Preparatory Phase of this exercise will be brought to a close with the publication of an interim report in September by webinar. Preparations are already underway to shape the next steps of the TA Vision 2030 project with the Substantive Phase over the period 2021 – 2024.



Alongside this intensive activity setting the scene for the TA 2030 Vision exercise, TPN has continued to organise a number of individual events on both sides of the Atlantic.



In Brussels, we have organised a round table for **Jean-Eric Paquet**, Director-General, for Research and Innovation. And, with the US Mission to the EU, hosting **Mary Wilson of the Supremes** was a particular pleasure. We also said thank you and farewell to **John Frank**, Vice President for European Affairs at Microsoft in Brussels as he headed to New York to set up the Microsoft Office at the United Nations.

In Washington, we held virtual conversations with **Kate Kalutkiewicz**, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Trade Policy, National Economic Council/White House as well as **The Honorable Carol Miller**, Member of Congress who welcomed a TPN briefing on Trade in a relaxed and informal setting.

As part of an emerging online conversation series, we hosted **Antony Phillipson**, Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner North America (UK), **Jurij Aston**, Head of Political Affairs and Coordinator of Germany's EU Presidency (Germany) and **Susan Ness**, Former FCC Commissioner, the latter introducing a report recommending a transatlantic framework for moderating speech online. And in late July, top US/EU negotiators **Dan Mullaney and Rupert Schlegelmilch** summarised the progress made so far on

bilateral trade and economic issues between the EU and the US. We also held a great conversation with **Robert Strayer**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Cyber and International Communications and Information Policy at the State Department, about US/EU cooperation and priorities for transatlantic digital policy issues, including the on-going debate around third country involvement, not only in supply chains but also in ICT infrastructure.

These virtual meetings had the real advantage of being open to TPN members on both sides of the Atlantic.



In the last six months, we have shown we will do what it takes to keep TPN running effectively in the interests of all our members and supporters. Our focus during the autumn will be to continue to provide high-quality exchanges of views across the Atlantic, bringing Brussels and Washington closer together through the online series.

The website has continued to be updated, while retaining essential content illustrating the role that the Network has taken in promoting Transatlantic Partnership over the past three decades. There is now one section dedicated to TA events during 2020, enabling members to follow events that have already taken place as well as those planned.

As a reminder, TPN Member login details are:

User ID: **TPN100**

Password: **%92tPn20#**

Armed with the conclusions of the interim report, we will now develop the Substantive phase of the TA 2030 Vision work, running from 2021 - 2024, setting out the details at TA Week 2021 in July next year. We will intensify our recruitment of new political members on both sides of the Atlantic, as well as expanding our business membership.

We firmly believe that there is a significant future for the Transatlantic Partnership. We will continue to vigorously pursue the creation of ideas and recommendations for US and EU policymakers.

We look forward to achieving these goals together with our members and supporters in the months ahead. In so doing, we would warmly welcome your input and suggestions for speakers and themes as well as for projects and other initiatives.

As a reminder, TPN always appreciates the opportunity to organise events for business participants. These occasions usually take the form of a roundtable for visiting top-level executives. They have always proved successful and informative for all participants.

On behalf of all of us in TPN, we hope you have a great summer.

**Vivien Haig and the TPN Team**

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