



TPN

TRANSATLANTIC POLICY NETWORK

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021

This month we feature an opinion piece by Jamie Shea entitled:

“Europeans should hurry to build a new transatlantic relationship that can outlast Biden.”

Jamie Shea is Professor of Strategy and Security within the Strategy and Security Institute at the University of Exeter and was formerly Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges at NATO Headquarters in Brussels.

As recent contributions to this Newsletter have attested, this piece underlines the urgent need to take advantage of the current favourable winds to deepen the Transatlantic Partnership, given the significant challenges ahead towards 2030. We are now focussed on enabling open discussion on these themes at this year’s Transatlantic Week, being held online from July 19-23 (see below). We are looking forward to welcoming you to what promises to be a well-timed first opportunity to follow up on outcomes from both the NATO and EU US Summits held in Brussels this month.

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TPN OPINION



“Europeans should hurry to build a new transatlantic relationship that can outlast Biden”

Jamie Shea

On the eve of President Biden’s first trip to Europe for meetings with the G7, NATO and the EU, Europe is heaving a sigh of relief. The Biden administration seems to represent a return to business as usual in the transatlantic relationship after the Trump years when commitments to NATO were shaky and US-EU trade frictions escalated.

Before leaving Washington, Biden had already sent most of the signals that Europeans were looking for – cancelling US troop reductions in Europe, cancelling punitive tariffs, agreeing on corporate tax rates and resuming negotiations on data exchanges. Yet business as usual it is not; and for three reasons.

First, the Biden administration clearly sees China as the main challenge, and the Indo-Pacific as its priority strategic theatre. The big question for NATO is how can it keep the US engaged if Washington's foremost alliance does not help the US to address its foremost strategic challenge?

Second, despite all the talk of NATO commitments and pivoting to China, Biden's primary focus is on domestic issues especially on easing racial tensions and political polarisation, as well as recovering from the Covid pandemic and carrying forward major infrastructure renewal programmes. Alliances will be maintained but where Biden can cut expensive, and non-essential US burdens, as in Afghanistan, he will.

Third, the Biden administration is staffed with myriad senior officials who have spent their careers focusing on Europe. However, whether Biden is succeeded by a Trumpist or a new wave Democrat, Europe will inevitably slide down the Washington agenda. So now or never is the time to build a resilient transatlantic partnership for the remainder of the 21st century.

Thus, Biden's upcoming trip to Europe needs to focus on the agenda for a durable transatlantic security partnership.

Strengthening NATO's collective defence should be the Europeans first objective. Russia continues to build up its forces on NATO's borders and now in the Arctic and the Black Sea too. More US rotational forces are needed in Eastern Europe and more pre-positioned heavy armour for stronger collective deterrence.

A second task for European allies would be to work with the Biden administration to persuade Congress to pass legislation making it more difficult for a future Trumpist president to withdraw the US from NATO without congressional approval.

Thirdly, while the US should continue to insist that the allies meet their NATO commitment to spend 2% of their GDP on defence it should also take into account other burden sharing contributions, such as overseas operations and capability development.

The allies also need to come up with a long term transatlantic strategy towards China that is more nuanced than just containment and push back. Where possible, Europeans want cooperation with Beijing, on issues such as climate change, piracy and Afghanistan, as well as moves to enhance the west's technology and supply chain sovereignty.

Finally, Europeans need to convince Washington that European Strategic Autonomy, a key objective of the EU's Global Strategy of 2016, deserves more explicit US support. A more capable Europe able to take the lead in dealing with regional crises where Washington does not want to be involved, can only be an asset to the US.

President Biden's trip to Europe will not be sufficient to complete this agenda; but let us hope that it sets the course for a reinvigorated transatlantic partnership. Time is not on our side and we need to keep an eye on the challenges as much as the opportunities.



TPN PARTICIPANTS

In recent months, we have been focussing on growing our legislative network and are pleased to share the latest updated list of TPN Participants in the European Parliament. As Transatlantic Week approaches, contacts with speakers in the Parliament, and also in the US Congress in Washington, DC, the 'spiritual home' for the event, will add further momentum to these efforts on both sides of the Atlantic.

Thanks to the leadership of the Chairman of our Parliamentary Committee Kati Piri, European Parliamentary Participation now stands at 46. Sadly for TPN, she has now left the European Parliament to enter Dutch politics where we wish her every success. Recent joining participants are:

Brando Benifei - S&D Italy
Geert Bourgeois - ECR Belgium
Katalin Cseh - RE Hungary
Arnaud Danjean - EPP France
Paolo De Castro - S&D Italy
Christophe Hansen - EPP Luxembourg
Evin Incir - S&D Sweden
Marina Kaljurand - S&D Estonia
Sergey Lagodinsky - G/EFA Germany
Javi López - EPP Spain
Hannah Neumann - E/GFA Germany
Radosław Sikorski - EPP Poland
Nils Ušakovs - S&D Latvia
Maria Walsh - EPP Ireland
Pernille Weiss - EPP Denmark
Željana Zovko - EPP Croatia



UPCOMING EVENTS – JUNE CONFIRMED

- **17 June “US-EU Relations: Digital Transformation at the Forefront”**

Virtual conversation with The Honorable Darin LaHood, Member of Congress, Pilar del Castillo MEP and Karan Bhatia, Vice President Government Affairs & Public Affairs, Google.

This event is designed to offer insights, leadership and forward momentum for transatlantic collaboration on digital transformation and will take place just after the EU-US Summit on 15 June.

- **June confirmed Molly Montgomery**, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, United States Department of State



UPCOMING EVENTS – TRANSATLANTIC WEEK

This occasion provides the opportunity, albeit online, for the TPN Community to come together for the first time since TA Week 2018 to take note of the past few years, to review existing and develop new ideas for priority action that promote Transatlantic Partnership towards 2030.

We will be looking forward to the period between now and 2024 during which the main players in the EU and the US will be essentially the same with similar policy objectives in mind. During this period, TPN will focus its efforts to deepen Transatlantic Partnership with particular attention to Geopolitics; Economy and Trade; Sustainability and Digital Transformation.

The Sessions in the draft agenda are as follows:

Global Trends and beyond: Assessing how to develop joint co-operation

Recovery from the Pandemic: Promoting joint strategies and actions

Towards Transatlantic Partnership 2030

Developing a Common Strategy to China

Setting the framework for TA Digital Cooperation

Priorities for action on digital issues

Multilateral action: the need for WTO Reform

Sustainability - The Potential for renewed Leadership.



PAST EVENTS MAY

- **10 May “Priorities for Transatlantic Digital Co-Operation”**

Virtual conversation with Andreas Schwab MEP, The Honorable Suzan DelBene, and Martin Jetter, Chairman, IBM Europe and Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Deutsche Boerse Group:

The panel took stock of the “state of affairs” with the transatlantic digital economy, and ahead of the June EU US Summit focused on realistic ambitions and opportunities, and suggested solutions to problems, and ways of working around obstacles.



COMMUNICATIONS

Launch of INFOGRAPHIC TPN

We are pleased to announce the launch of an add on feature to our engagement on TWITTER - [@TPNOnline](#) and LINKEDIN - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/transatlantic-policy-network-tpn/> - in the form of a regular TPN themed infographic.

Our aim with INFOGRAPHIC TPN is to investigate some of the facts and data behind the key themes we work with for the Transatlantic 2030 Vision and then - in keeping with our mission - to illustrate what we find in simple ways as an educational tool for interested parties.

Please look out for INFOGRAPHICS TPN every week – and follow us at [@TPNOnline](#) and <https://www.linkedin.com/company/transatlantic-policy-network-tpn/>

Our latest infographic covers milestones in transatlantic institutional contact:

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TPNOnline/status/1399380090694275083>

LINKEDIN: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/transatlantic-policy-network-tpn/videos/>

Our second Infographic covers trends in ESG investing:

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TPNOnline/status/1398214927639252992>

LINKEDIN: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/transatlantic-policy-network-tpn_esg-transatlantic-greenfinance-activity-6803678931858812928-mcLE/

Our first Infographic covers trends in restrictiveness in digital trade:

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TPNOnline/status/1395715296841842694>

LINKEDIN: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/transatlantic-policy-network-tpn/videos/native/urn:li:ugcPost:6800703376024719360/>