



# TPN

TRANSATLANTIC POLICY NETWORK

## NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021

This month we feature an opinion piece following up the EU/US Summit last month, setting out ideas for the way ahead written by John Wyles, Senior TPN Fellow. We also preview Transatlantic Week, which will take place on July 19-20<sup>th</sup>.

We are very much looking forward to 'seeing you' online and if you haven't booked your place please feel free to be in contact directly with me at [vivien.haig@tpnonline.org](mailto:vivien.haig@tpnonline.org)

**And don't forget to follow us at @TPNOnline!**

**Vivien Haig and the TPN Team**

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### TPN OPINION

#### **The Transatlantic Agenda must move forward to avoid reliving the recent past.**

For TPN participants and most other transatlanticists, the US-EU summit in June was something of an epiphany. Through study, debate and discussion over nearly 30 years, TPN has worked to promote and sustain the closest possible relationship between the EU and the US. We have had our successes as well as our setbacks, but until 2016 we could always feel that the US Administration of the day shared both our belief in democratic values and a rules-based international order, and our conviction that transatlantic cooperation was the best way to advance economic development and political stability in the world.

Inevitably, relations have often been strained by disagreements and dissensions on specific issues in trade, or security policy, or the emerging challenges of dealing with China's accelerated drive to superpower status and Russia's tests of western resolve. Nevertheless, each side has worked to respect and accommodate the interests of the other.

But long standing commitments to consult and work together were sorely tested, strained and bruised after the election of President Donald Trump. "Make America Great Again" was an election slogan mostly translated into policies of relentless national self-regard. It frequently subordinated the obligations and requirements of alliance management in Europe and elsewhere to narrower, populist definitions of the American national interest.

After his election, President Joe Biden had declared on more than one occasion that “America is back”. His meaning became apparent at the June summit. Biden’s America is intent on recomposing and resetting an alliance that was in need of intensive care. With focus and determination to deliver results, the US and the EU bonded in defence of democratic values and processes at the summit. They started closing ranks to confront together a litany of global health, technology, climate and geopolitical challenges that are picking at the threads of our societies and future economic wellbeing.

[https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/15/u-s-eu-summit-statement/?mc\\_cid=b128f74fbb&mc\\_eid=a846f0b859](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/15/u-s-eu-summit-statement/?mc_cid=b128f74fbb&mc_eid=a846f0b859) and <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/06/15/eu-us-summit-statement-towards-a-renewed-transatlantic-partnership/>

The summit’s flagship creation was an ambitious high level Trade and Technology Council. It is too soon to know whether the Council can fulfil its purpose of enabling an EU /US combination to set global rules and standards for the business, digital and commercial transformations that lie ahead. At the same time, the summit kicked two long standing trade disputes into the long grass and launched multiple working groups, *inter alia*, to coordinate and align transatlantic policies on green tech, competition policy and semiconductor supply.

However, satisfaction should not give way to euphoria. TPN wants a new Transatlantic Agenda and real progress towards a Transatlantic Partnership by 2030. There are a number of serious bumps in the road ahead that are likely to include implementing an OECD global minimum tax agreement, digital issues, policies for cutting carbon emissions, burden sharing in security policy, and relations with China and Russia. On the latter, the two most crucial foreign policy challenges, there are significant differences of perspective, economic interests and priorities not only between the EU and the US, but also within the EU.

A major complicating factor is President Biden’s very weak hold on the Congress. In effect, he will be negotiating on two fronts: with Capitol Hill legislators and overseas allies.

TPN intends to follow up on the achievements of the June summit and use them as the basis for focussed discussions at this month’s Transatlantic Week. TPN is publishing an addendum to its Interim Report, promoting ideas and substance for a renewed and strengthened Transatlantic Partnership. This contains papers from the last two Op-ed lead writers, Bruce Stokes and Jamie Shea.

Readers will be struck by the fact that they deliver the same core message that time is of the essence to move forward to strengthen the institutional framework to realise effectively the policy goals outlined. Strategic first steps could be to deploy a legislators’ assembly from the Congress and the European Parliament as a first line of defence. Such an assembly could acquire an influential role in setting priorities and resolving disputes as Bruce Stokes suggests in his TPN Paper.

Iron-cladding the transatlantic relationship against any return to Trumpism requires creative leadership on both sides. Significant forward progress and momentum towards a new partnership needs strong and consistent political involvement of those who make laws and speak for the peoples on both sides of the Atlantic.

**John Wyles    Senior TPN Fellow**



## TPN UPCOMING EVENTS

### UPCOMING EVENTS – TRANSATLANTIC WEEK 2021

MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> – TUESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021

TPN fully supports this historic decision for the EU and the US to promote joint actions across a broad field of endeavor. It looks forward to contributing to discussions on priorities, policies and direction of travel towards the goal of a renewed, resilient and relevant Transatlantic Partnership 2030. TPN has always believed that a vibrant EU-US partnership has never been more important, being essential to meet the local, regional and global challenges that we all face.

Indeed, TPN has employed significant effort in the past couple of years drawing together ideas for priority action by the Transatlantic Partnership. These ideas were laid out in the TPN Interim report entitled “**The TPN Papers – Towards Transatlantic Partnership 2030**”, ending the Preliminary Phase of the Transatlantic Vision 2030 exercise in September 2020. These papers are now complemented by an Addendum to this report with two additional papers looking at possible developments in the TA institutional framework. Click here:

<file:///C:/Users/jeffr/OneDrive/Documents/TPN/ADDENDUM%20TO%20THE%20TPN%20INTERIM%20REPORT%20%20for%20the%20%20Transatlantic%20Week%202021%20John%20Wyles.pdf>

Such a broadly based objective to strengthen Transatlantic Partnership can only be done effectively with the full support and involvement of the political communities on both sides of the Atlantic. Ideas to strengthen this political framework are presented to TA Week for discussion and mobilisation with a revised declaration as a shared political statement of intent.

TA Week 2021, held online, provides an excellent opportunity to take stock of these proposals. As the Substantive Phase of the TA 2030 Vision Project develops between now and 2024, TPN will have the opportunity to review all these issues. For now, owing to time constraints arising from the uneven transitions out of lockdown, our Agenda will focus on **rebuilding trust in a strengthened Transatlantic Partnership; handling the electrifying speed of Digital Transformation and focussing on the shifts in geopolitics with the rise of China to 2030**. Click here:

<https://www.tponline.org/WP/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/21-06-29-TPN-TRANSATLANTIC-WEEK-2021-DRAFT-OUTLINE-PROGRAMME.pdf>

Thus the main themes to be discussed over the two day event are:

- > Towards Transatlantic Partnership 2030
- > Developing a Common Strategy to China
- > Setting the framework for Transatlantic Digital Cooperation
- > Priorities for action on digital issues

We fully recognise that there are other vital issues to address such as Economy and Trade as well as those linked to Sustainability, set out in the Annex to the draft programme. We look forward to following them up in our programme for 2021 – 2022, developing different formats to handle this extensive agenda. TA Week 2022 is provisionally fixed for Monday 18<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022



## TPN PARTICIPANTS

Meet Miapetra Kumpula-Natri TPN's new EP Committee Chair:



We are delighted to announce that Miapetra Kumpula-Natri has agreed to become the TPN EP Advisory Committee Chairman following on from Kati Piri who has returned to Dutch domestic politics. Miapetra (S&D Finland) is Vice-Chair of the Delegation for Relations with the United States and Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence in a Digital Age (AIDA) and Member of the ITRE Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE).



## PAST EVENTS JUNE

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

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

This discussion took place immediately following the EU/US Summit. The consensus was that it was a necessary and positive development in transatlantic relations. By taking a pragmatic approach and agreeing to the creation of mechanisms such as a Trade and Tech Council, the leaders were able to revitalise an agenda which had been diverging in recent years, generally and at a regulatory level.

- **23 June "Perspectives ahead for US/EU relations"**

TPN Virtual Conversation with Molly Montgomery, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, US Department of State

Europe is the front of mind for the US Administration, illustrated by the recent trip of the US President to the three Summits (G7; US/EU and NATO). The US/EU Summit evidenced commitment to rebuild and increase the level of ambition. There is a clear intention to deliver tangible progress in reviving transatlantic relations.



## COMMUNICATIONS

### **INFOGRAPHIC TPN**

This month's infographic coverage for our engagement on TWITTER - [@TPNOnline](#) and LINKEDIN - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/transatlantic-policy-network-tpn/> - has covered these topics:

#### **Chinese lending practices**

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/TPNOnline/status/1409763594670063616>

LINKEDIN:

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6815529792197156864/>

#### **Digital transformation**

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/TPNOnline/status/1408434052713963520> and  
<https://twitter.com/TPNOnline/status/1407388399955333133>

LINKEDIN:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/transatlantic-policy-network-tpn/posts/?feedView=all>

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/>