

A warm welcome to the December edition of TPN's new online newsletter.

Our offering includes a review by James Elles, TPN chairman, of progress we have made in adjusting to the constraints of the Covid 19 pandemic, attaching a list of past events over the period 2020-2021: he looks forward with confidence for TPN towards 2024. John Wyles has written a Viewpoint on what should be EU-US priorities for following up on COP26. In addition, we republish with pleasure an award-winning analysis by Dan Michaels and colleagues at the Wall Street Journal on China's strategy for dominating global technology standards.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a successful New Year.

Vivien Haig & The TPN Team

TPN PRESENT AND FUTURE

Looking beyond the pandemic to 2024

Message from James Elles, Chairman TPN Board

James Elles is the Chairman of the Transatlantic Policy Network, which he founded in 1992. He was a Conservative Party Member of the European Parliament from 1984 to 2014. He also founded the European Internet Forum (EIF) with two MEP colleagues in 2000, and still remains a member of the Steering Committee. He laid the foundation for creating the European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS) by tabling two budget amendments in 2010 and 2012. Their purpose was to establish an inter-institutional system looking closely at long-term trends with a view to providing foresight, feeding in principal ideas into strategic policy-making. James is the ESPAS Honorary President.

Consistent pursuit of Transatlantic Partnership

Since its' founding in 1992, TPN has maintained the same consistent mission set out below:

- To facilitate constructive dialogue and the development of jointly actionable objectives at a strategic level between the worlds of business and politics on both sides of the Atlantic with the involvement, where appropriate, of government, civil society, and academic representatives;
- To help this partnership adjust to new challenges and opportunities, to identify common interests and to reduce the scope for misunderstanding on either side, and to promote and assist the convergence of EU/US government policies;
- To act as a communications mechanism for ideas on policy issues. Wherever possible, the TPN works with established organisations and institutions, avoiding duplication and enhancing specific objectives.

TPN supplied ideas for the New Transatlantic Agenda of 1995 and ran a series of Annual reports in the first decade of the 21st Century calling for a Transatlantic Market, focussing on jobs and growth.

Subsequently, TPN launched in July 2019 a long term project called "Towards Transatlantic Partnership 2030" to explore opportunities for deepening TA cooperation on the basis of shared interest. In September 2020, it published an Interim report entitled "The TPN Papers – Towards Transatlantic Partnership 2030". This was complemented with an

Addendum in July 2021, addressing the institutional relationship, suggesting innovative changes.

The impact of the pandemic

In March 2020, our challenge was that we have long functioned on the basis of face to face encounters, discussions and debates. How to live with the constraints imposed by Covid-19? I remember well returning from a visit to Washington DC as lockdown approached. While there was a real sense of a major crisis developing, there was no public realisation that this would last for over 18 months. The most prescient recognised that we would not be free until vaccines against Covid-19 had been made available to all. We had to go online.

So we did. We started our first transatlantic online dialogue with our political leadership in May 2020. Since then, we have organised nearly 50 events involving a wide range of political, business and academic speakers, interacting with senior US and EU officials on an extensive list of topics related to the Transatlantic relationship. A remarkable achievement ([click here](#)).

Such meetings have helped to promote understanding on transatlantic issues such as the Trade and Technology Council (TTC), providing a trusted and independent platform for diverse stakeholders, including the political and business communities, to turn ideas into action to support the goal of transatlantic partnership.

Looking forward to 2024

The election of President Joe Biden has been a real game changer for those of us in TPN working for strengthened transatlantic relations. Efforts to renew and revitalise a strong Transatlantic Partnership have acquired fresh momentum, aided by the EU/US Summit in June 2021. At that key agenda-setting meeting, EU and US leaders “met to renew our Transatlantic partnership, set a Joint Transatlantic Agenda for the post-pandemic era, and commit to regular dialogue to take stock of progress. We are committed to uphold the rules-based international order.”

As a result, TPN has changed direction, away from campaigning for specific issues to providing a supportive framework to help renew the Transatlantic Partnership. It has launched the Substantive phase for the TPN 2030 Vision Project, running to 2024, during which time TPN will focus on priorities, policies and direction of travel towards the goal of a renewed, resilient and relevant Transatlantic Partnership 2030. It will do

so under the distinct titles of Geopolitics; Digital Transformation; Economy and Trade; Sustainability, with a broad framework for the goal of Transatlantic Partnership.

In the months ahead, TPN will run a series of regular events in support of the Joint Transatlantic Agenda, with a particular focus on the recently created TTC. Key stakeholders, including the political and business sectors, will be involved in the discussions. Such a series is designed to offer a platform for interactive dialogue involving government, legislators, business and academia. The results of these discussions will feed into TA Week 2022 in July next year.

TPN recognises that political leadership will be vital for progress on such a broadly based agenda to strengthen Transatlantic Partnership. And yet, for now, it is uncertain how this will be structured. An idea which is increasingly attracting attention is that of a US/EU Transatlantic Assembly, building on the existing Transatlantic Legislators Dialogue (TLD) (see Daniel Caspary MEP TPN November Newsletter). Nothing less will ensure the involvement of all those whose support is essential for the initiative to be successful. We have started building a staffers' network to involve a younger generation in our activities to assist establish better understanding of the key issues involved.

Come and join TPN

We look forward with confidence to continue our work towards 2024. There are major issues to be discussed between the US and the EU such as climate change and the rising power of China, both feature in this Newsletter. It is critical that both sides of the Atlantic develop priority actions together. In doing so, we will continue to improve our Communications.

We have the ambition to build a balanced network by 2024, welcoming more political and business members who share our vision to participate in our activities. Online encounters have proved to be highly successful during lockdown, strengthening Network cohesion across the Atlantic. But moving into 2022, as health conditions permit, we want to find the right balance between online exchanges and in-person meetings, strongly requested by TPN Members who yearn for an alternative online contact only. We need to create a judicious mix between the online and offline worlds, being open to new ways of meeting informally.

We intend that, circumstances permitting, the next TA Week from 18 – 20th July 2022 in Washington DC will be an in-person meeting. Please

make a note of this date in your diary and come and join us.

In the meantime, a warm thank you for your support and trust in TPN

Transatlantic Policy Network (TPN)

2020-2021 events

29-Jan-20 Latest developments in the European Commission's Policy in Research and Innovation

Moderator: **Edit Herczog**, TPN Board Member

Speaker: **Jean-Eric Paquet**, Director--
General Research and Innovation, European Commission

29-Jan-20 TPN Workshop 2030 Project: 'Restoring a Sense of Transatlantic Purpose

Moderator: **Sven Mikser MEP**

Speaker: **Robin Niblett**, Chief Executive,
Chatham House

03-Feb-20 TPN Workshop 2030 Project: 'The Folly of Not Taking the Transatlantic Partnership Seriously'

Moderator: **Michael Gahler MEP**

Speaker: **Simon Serfaty**, Professor of US
Foreign Policy and Eminent Scholar, Old Dominion University Norfolk

05-Feb-20 TPN Workshop 2030 Project: 'The Digital Transformation of our Societies and Economies'

Speaker: **Peter Linton**, Advisor to the
Steering Committee, European Internet Forum

05-Feb-20 Roundtable in cooperation with the US Mission to the EU 'Civil Society and Renewing our Democracy'

Chair: **Bruce Stokes**, Executive Director,
Transatlantic Task Force, German Marshall Fund of the United
States

Speaker: **Mary Wilson of
the Supremes**

02-Mar-20 TPN Roundtable in honour of John Frank

Moderator: **Paul Adamson**, Founder of
Encompass and Chairman, Forum of Europe

Speaker: **John Frank**, Vice President for
European Affairs, Microsoft

23-Apr-20 A TPN Conversation

Speaker: **The Honorable Carol Miller**, US
House of Representatives (R--WV)

07-May-20 Virtual 2030 Series: Overview - "Making sense of the post crisis landscape in all its dimensions - what are the implications of Covid-19 for the transatlantic relationship?"

Moderator: **John Wyles**, Senior Adviser, TPN
Speakers: **The Honorable Jim Costa**, Member of the US House of Representatives
Professor Danuta Huebner
MEP

03-Jun-20 Virtual 2030 Series – Political - "Post Covid 19, what are the key geopolitical challenges ahead that need to be addressed to restore a Transatlantic sense of purpose, in particular how the US and the EU handle the rise of China ?"

Moderator: **Fran Burwell**, Distinguished Fellow, The Atlantic Council
Speakers: **The Honorable Darin LaHood**, Member US House of Representatives
Reinhard Buetikofer MEP

10-Jun-20 Virtual 2030 Series – Digital - "Toward a transatlantic partnership 2030 fit for a digital age"

Moderator: **Tyson Barker**, Program Director and Fellow, Aspen Institute
Speakers: **The Honorable Will Hurd**, Member US House of Representatives
Paul Tang MEP

18-Jun-20 Virtual 2030 Series – Economic - "Given the enormous consequences of Covid 19 to both the US and Europe now

underway, what ideas can the transatlantic stake holders generate for US-EU trade policy to help resolve the economic challenges ahead ?"

Moderator: **Bruce Stokes**, Executive Director, Transatlantic Task Force, German Marshall Fund of the United States
Speakers: **The Honorable David Schweikert**, Member of the US House of Representatives
Daniel Caspary MEP

24-Jun-20 Virtual Conversation – Economic - "Perspectives on EU--US--UK trade relations"

Moderator: **Marjorie Chorlins**, Senior Vice

President, US Chamber of Commerce

Speaker: **Antony Phillipson**, Her Majesty's
Trade Commissioner North America, UK

25-Jun-20 Virtual Conversation - Political - "Priorities for the German Presidency of the EU"

Moderator: **Jim Kolbe**, Senior Transatlantic
Fellow, German Marshall Fund of the United States

Speaker: **Jurij Aston**, Head of Political
Affairs and Antici Permanent Representation of Germany to the EU
and Coordinator of
Germany's EU Presidency

30-Jun-20 Virtual Conversation – Report Launch - 'Freedom and Accountability: A Transatlantic Framework for Moderating Speech Online'

Moderator: **Peter Chase**, Senior Fellow,
German Marshall Fund of the United States

Speaker: **Susan Ness**, Co--chair of the
report and and Former, FCC Commissioner

14-Jul-20 Virtual Conversation – Economic - "Current EU/US Trade issues"

Moderator: **Bruce Stokes**, Executive Director,
Transatlantic Task Force, German Marshall Fund of the United States

Speakers: **Rupert Schlegelmilch**, Director,
Directorate E (Neighbouring countries, USA and Canada)
European Commission

Dan Mullaney, Assistant US
Trade Representative for Europe and the Middle East Office of the
United States Trade
Representative

30-Jul-20 Virtual Conversation – Digital - "Priorities for Transatlantic Digital Policy"

Moderator: **Paul Adamson**, Chairman of Forum
Europe and Founder of Encompass

Speaker: **Robert Strayer**, Deputy Assistant
Secretary for Cyber and International Communications and
Information Policy, US
Department of State

09-Sep-20 Virtual Launch of TPN Interim Report "The

Transatlantic Papers: Towards Transatlantic Partnership 2030"

Chair: **James Elles**, Chairman,
Transatlantic Policy Network (TPN)
Speaker: **John Wyles**, Senior Fellow,
Transatlantic Policy Network (TPN) and Author of TPN Interim Report

29-Sep-20 Virtual Conversation -- "Key EU Initiatives and priorities ahead"

Moderator: **Tyson Barker**, Director of the Tech and Foreign Policy Program, German Council of Foreign Relations

Speaker: **Executive Vice President Margrethe Vestager**, Member of the European Commission responsible for A Europe Fit for the Digital Age and Competition

13-Oct-20 Virtual Conversation "The US Presidential Elections"

Moderator: **Paul Adamson**, Chairman of Forum Europe and Founder of Encompass

Speaker: **Ambassador Anthony Gardner**, Former US Ambassador to the EU

14-Oct-20 Report launch: 'Transatlantic Task Force: Together or Alone? "Choices and Strategies for Transatlantic Relations for 2021 and Beyond"

Moderator: **Bruce Stokes**, Executive Director, Transatlantic Task Force, German Marshall Fund of the United States

27-Oct-20 Virtual Update "The US Presidential Elections"

Moderator: **Paul Adamson**, Chairman of Forum Europe and Founder of Encompass

Speaker: **The Honorable Darrell Issa**, former Member of Congress 49th Congressional district of California

28-Oct-20 Virtual Conversation "WTO Reform"

Moderator: **André Sapir**, Senior Fellow, Bruegel
Speaker: **Rufus Yerxa**, President, National Foreign Trade Council

10-Nov-20 TPN Academic Network Follow-up Interim report

Chair: **John Wyles**, Senior Fellow,
Transatlantic Policy Network (TPN)

01-Dec-20 Virtual Conversation - Political - "America in the

World: A History of US Diplomacy"

Speaker: **Bob Zoellick**, Non--Executive
Chairman, Alliance Bernstein

09-Dec-20 Virtual 2030 series: "Towards Transatlantic Partnership – Rebuilding Trust"

Speakers: **Ambassador Wendy Sherman**
Danuta Huebner MEP
The Honorable Jim Costa,
Member of the US House of Representatives
Pilar del Castillo MEP
The Honorable Ron Kind,
Member of the US House of Representatives
Daniel Caspary MEP

10-Dec-20 Virtual Conversation

Moderator: **Bruce Stokes**, Executive Director,
Transatlantic Task Force, German Marshall Fund of the United States
Speakers: **Ted McKinney**, Under Secretary
USDA
Paolo De Castro MEP

04-Feb-21 Virtual Trilateral series - "TA Partnership and the Triangular relationship US EU UK"

Moderator: **Bruce Stokes**, Executive Director,
Transatlantic Task Force, German Marshall Fund of the United States
Speaker: **Ambassador Joao Almeida**, EU
Ambassador to the UK

05-Feb-21 Virtual 2030 series - Political - "Towards a common EU/US China Strategy"

Moderator: **Frances G. Burwell**, Distinguished
Fellow at The Atlantic Council
Speakers: **Rep. Darin LaHood**
Reinhard Bütikofer MEP

18-Feb-21 TPN Academic Network -- Preparation of the Substantive Phase of the 2030 Project

02-Mar-21 Virtual Trilateral series - "Global Britain, Global Broker"

Moderator: **Dan Michaels**, Brussels Bureau

Chief, The Wall Street Journal

Speaker: **Dr Robin Niblett**, Chief Executive Officer, Chatham House

23-Mar-21 Virtual Conversation - "The EU US Financial Services agenda and transatlantic economic cooperation"

Moderator: **Danuta Huebner MEP**

Speaker: **Eric J Pan**, President and CEO, Investment Company Institute

06-Apr-21 Virtual Conversation - EU Business view on China

Moderator: **Jeffries Briginshaw**, Senior Director, TPN

Speaker: **Joerg Wuttke**, Vice President; Chief Representative, China, BASF, President EU Chamber Commerce in China

15-Apr-21 Virtual Conversation

Moderator: **Tyson Barker**, Director of the Tech and Foreign Policy Program, German Council on Foreign Relations

Speaker: **Executive Vice President Margaritis Schinas**, Member, European Commission

16-Apr-21 Virtual Conversation

Welcome: **Vivien Haig**, Board Member, TPN

Moderator: **James Elles**, Chairman, TPN

Author: **John Boehner**, Former Speaker of the US House of Representatives

21-Apr-21 Virtual Conversation - "Transatlantic Partnership: Strategic Autonomy and Global Interdependence"

Moderator: **John Wyles**, Senior Fellow, TPN

Speaker: **Klaus Welle**, Secretary General, European Parliament

22-Apr-21 TPN Academic Network - Preparation of the Substantive Phase of the 2030 Project

29-Apr-21 Virtual Conversation

Moderator: **Bruce Stokes**, Executive Director, Transatlantic Task Force, German Marshall Fund

Speaker: **The Honorable Jim Costa**, Member of the US House of Representatives

10-May-21 Virtual Conversation - "Priorities for Transatlantic digital co-operation"

Moderator: **Tyson Barker**, Director of the Tech and Foreign Policy Program, German Council of Foreign Relations

Speakers: **Martin Jetter**, Chairman, IBM Europe

The Honorable Suzan DelBene, Member of Congress

Andreas Schwab MEP

16-Jun-21 Virtual Conversation - Energy Export Caucus Co-Chair Special Discussion

Speakers: **The Honorable Lou Correa-D-CA** (co-chair)

The Honorable Henry Cuellar-D-TX (co-chair)

Ms. Karin Karlsbro MEP, Committee on International Trade (INTA), European Parliament (Renew Europe Group - Sweden)

Mr. Bernd Lange MEP, Chair, Committee on International Trade (INTA), European Parliament (S&D Group - Germany)

The Honorable Carol Miller-R-WV (co-chair)

17-Jun-21 Virtual 2030 series - Digital - "EU/US Relations to 2030: Digital Transformation to the forefront"

Moderator: **Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner**, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany

Speakers: **Karan Bhatia**, VP Government Affairs and Public Policy

Pilar Del Castillo MEP
The Honorable Darin LaHood, US House of Representatives

23-Jun-21 Virtual Conversation

Moderator: **Jeffries Briginshaw**, Senior Director, TPN

US Speaker: **Molly Montgomery**, Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs

19-Jul-21 TPN Transatlantic Week -- TPN's Flagship Annual

Meeting

Session 1

Opening Session

Speakers: **Lisa Schroeter**, Global Director of Trade & Investment, Policy, Dow Chemical Company

Professor Danuta Huebner

MEP

Session 2

Towards Transatlantic

Partnership 2030

Moderator: **Dan Michaels**, Brussels Bureau Chief, Wall Street Journal

Speakers: **The Honorable Jim Costa**, Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue US Co--Chair, Member of Congress
Bruce Stokes, Executive Director, Transatlantic Task Force, German Marshall Fund

Antonio Lopez--Isturiz White

MEP, Secretary General of the EPP and Member of the European Parliament

Jamie Shea CMG, Professor of Strategy and Security at Exeter University and Former Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges at NATO

Session 3

Developing a Common Strategy

to China

Moderator: **Stormy Mildner**, Executive Director, Aspen Institute, Germany

Speakers: **Reinhard Buetikofer**
MEP, European Parliament

The Honorable Andy Kim, Member of Congress

Session 4

Transatlantic Legislators

Dialogue (TLD) Briefing

Moderator: **Paul Adamson**, Founder of Encompass and Chairman of Forum Europe

Speakers: **Radek Sikorski MEP**, Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue EU Co--Chair, European Parliament
The Honorable Jim Costa, Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue US Co--Chair, Member of Congress

Session 5

Setting the framework for

Transatlantic Digital Cooperation

Moderator: **Paul Hofheinz**, Co-Founder and

President, The Lisbon Council

Speakers: **Edward (Ed) Gillespie**, Senior Executive Vice President, AT&T

Karen Massin, Head Government Affairs & Public Policy, Google

Lise Fuhr, Director--General, ETNO

Session 6 **Priorities for action on digital issues**

Moderator: **Tyson Barker**, Director of the Tech and Foreign Policy Program, German Council on Foreign Relations

Speakers: **Pilar Del Castillo MEP**
The Honorable Darrell Issa, Member of Congress

Gianpiero Lotito, Founder and CEO of FacilityLive

Hendrik Bourgeois, Head of Government Affairs Europe & Russia, Apple

09-Sep-21 **Virtual Conversation - ET/DT - "Perspectives on current EU/US Trade relations"**

Moderator: **Fran Burwell**, Distinguished Fellow, Atlantic Council

Speaker: **Rupert Schlegelmilch**, Deputy Director General in charge of the Americas, Agriculture and Food Safety, European Commission

15-Sep-21 **TPN Academic Network**

Coordinator: **John Wyles**, Senior Fellow TPN

28-Sep-21 **Virtual Conversation - TP "Outcomes of the German Election"**

Moderator: **Joern Fleck**, Senior Fellow, Transatlantic Policy Network (TPN)

Speakers: **Astrid Woerner**, US Correspondent, Handelsblatt

Tyson Barker, Director, German Council Foreign Relations

12-Oct-21 **Virtual Conversation - ET/DT - "Outcome of the Trade and technological Council: the next steps"**

Moderator: **Fran Burwell**, Distinguished Fellow, Atlantic Council

Speaker: **Dan Mullaney**, Assistant US Trade Representative for Europe and the Middle East

27-Oct-21 Virtual Conversation - G - "Challenges ahead post Kabul"

Moderator: **Lisa Schroeter**, Chairman, TPN Advisory Business Committee

Speaker: **Jamie Shea CMG**, Professor of Strategy and Security at Exeter University and Former Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges at NATO

16-Nov-21 Virtual Conversation - TP

Moderator: **Daniel Michaels**, Brussels Bureau Chief, The Wall Street Journal Speaker:

Ambassador Lambrinidis, EU Ambassador to the US

02-Dec-21 Virtual Conversation - TP - "A Congressional Perspective on key TA issues: The importance of staff exchanges"

Speaker: **Jonathan Day**, Chief of Staff Rep Joe Wilson

The EU and US must build on "heroic failure"

John Wyles, Senior Fellow, TPN

Whatever the political system and wherever it sits on the democracy to dictatorship spectrum, the imperative remains the same: no matter how distant the truth may be, failure should be dressed as success. There are, however, degrees of unsuccess, and on this basis it would be fair to judge the UN's Cop26 conference in Glasgow an "heroic failure."

True, the 198 countries participating stuck by their Paris 2015 goal to limit the average rise in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels by the end of this century. But Cop26 delivered only a light touch in this direction, despite a plethora of pledges.

Without the promises made in Glasgow, experts said the average temperature rise would be well above 3 degrees. Even with them, the consequent increase of 2.4 - 2.7 degrees will be scarcely less catastrophic for many countries and communities.

With considerable effort, a sort of transatlantic partnership did score some useful hits in Glasgow propelled by agreements signed at the EU-US Summit in June.

A joint EU-US initiative secured the backing of more than a 100 countries for the Global Methane Pledge, aimed at slashing methane emissions by 30% by 2030. In an unexpected initiative with the US, China committed to plan methane emissions reductions and to phase down its use of coal. In contrast, the EU and the US did not see eye to eye over language about phasing out fossil fuels, ending unabated coal power generation and accelerating the transition to 100% zero emissions cars and vans.

Five tasks for the transatlantic partnership

What do the EU and the US need to do to encourage a reset in climate policies around the globe that would bring the Paris target into closer reach? Accounting for just under 20% of global greenhouse emissions, they cannot deliver Paris alone. They can provide money, technology, example and a weighty combination of political and diplomatic muscle. But the ultimate 1.5 degrees goal cannot be attained without support from other major emitters of carbon and other greenhouse gases, not least Russia China, India and Brazil.

For the next 12 months and probably longer, the EU and the US need to work together on at least five priorities. They should:

1. **Push hard for greater transparency and accountability.** Glasgow completed technical negotiations on the transparency and reporting requirements for all parties to track progress against their emission reduction targets. After decades of weak or non-existent delivery, the so-called Paris Agreement Rulebook could be an effective tool for pressurising governments to stand by their commitments. A surge of political energy behind it from both sides of the Atlantic would be a help in the run-up to the COP 27 (2022) in Egypt and COP28 (2023) meetings in the UAE. The latter will feature the first stocktake to assess progress towards the Paris goals.

The Conference of the Parties (COP) has been meeting annually (except in 2020 because of the pandemic) since 1995 and is the apex of the decision-making process built around the UN's climate change framework convention.

2. **Demand more ambition** –in an acknowledgement that there is still so much to do, the conference countries agreed to revisit their emissions pledges during 2022 in an effort to stiffen their ambition. As part of a drive for compliance, the EU and US must intensify dialogues with China and India on the need to accelerate measures to cutback greenhouse gas emissions.

3. **Mobilize public opinion and special interests in Europe** and the US behind concrete and relatively inexpensive measures to keep the climate change bandwagon rolling. Among other things, they should focus on minimizing dependence on fossil fuels and hold to account those countries that signed the reforestation pledge in Glasgow.

4. **Lobby in favour of large financial transfers** to developing countries both to mitigate climate change and reduce their carbon emissions. UN estimates say that developing countries may need up to \$140bn a year for adaptation by 2030. The transatlantic partners must make sure than the Paris promise to transfer 100bn dollars a year to developing countries by 2020 is finally honoured by 2023, as pledged in Glasgow.

5. **Try to align Brussels and Washington** behind the concept of a loss and damage fund for countries suffering from the damaging economic , social and infrastructural impacts of climate change. The US and some Europeans are wary of any step that might imply a readiness to pay

reparations for environmental damage they inflicted over centuries. The Glasgow Pact weakly promises only a future dialogue on this very divisive issue.

The EU and the US must deliver on their pledges

For their part, the US is committed to reducing its global emissions by 50-52% from 2005 levels in 2030, targeting net zero emissions by 2050. The EU's Green Deal revolves around a commitment to achieving climate neutrality by 2050, via at least a 55% reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. Many experts are doubtful these goals can be achieved, especially in the short term.

Internal politics will be a determining factor on both sides of the Atlantic. In Glasgow, the US was hotly criticised for refusing to give an unequivocal commitment to end all fossil fuel supports. Ultimately, it agreed to end assistance to "unabated" coal and "inefficient" fossil fuel subsidies. John Kerry, the US climate negotiator, acknowledged the fact of US subsidies while adding that the \$2.5 trillion that went into subsidies worldwide is the "definition of insanity."

Only ambitious and coordinated global action can bring the world closer to safety. In the end it is much more likely to be politics rather than technology that can keep further destruction and human suffering at bay.

From lightbulbs to 5G, China battles West for control of vital technology standards

Dan Michaels, Brussels Bureau Chief, Wall Street Journal & WSJ Colleagues

Dan Michaels, Brussels Bureau Chief at The Wall Street Journal and a frequent TPN Moderator has won an important award for a story on how China is attempting to use its economic weight and political muscle to reshape the rules of global trade.

With Dan anchoring the European leg of the story, he and a team from WSJ has won the National Press Foundation's Hinrich Award for Distinguished Reporting on Trade. Their coverage of how Beijing has used its power and political leverage to give Chinese companies a permanent advantage in the global marketplace is recognised by the Foundation as exemplary journalism that illuminates and advances the public's understanding of international business and trade. The judges praised the high quality of the reporting and analysis of how China's quest to wrest control over international norms previously controlled by the United States is "setting the stage for skirmishes to come."

Congratulations to Dan and the WSJ team for covering a topic at the heart of the TPN transatlantic agenda!

Whoever has control of industrial norms for telecommunications, electricity transmission and artificial intelligence is in a position to dominate

Nearly every product in American homes, from lightbulbs to couches, windows and Wi-Fi routers, conforms to standards and measurements of a global system established to ensure quality and seamless operation.

Industrial standards, created by the U.S. and its allies over decades, form an invisible matrix of rules that underpin the global marketplace. Mundane though it may sound, this uniformity is critical to international trade in how it guarantees that bolts, USB plugs and shipping containers can all be used interchangeably world-wide. The standards reflect the consensus of international panels long dominated by Western technical experts.

China now wants to take the lead in fields of the future. To the

consternation of many Western countries, Beijing is employing state funding and political influence to try to define the norms for all manner of cutting-edge technologies that span telecommunications, electricity transmission and artificial intelligence.

“Dominance of technical standards underpinning information and communications technologies and other emerging fields is integral to Beijing’s ambitions,” said Congress’s U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission in its annual report in December.

China’s efforts are driven by the desire to outdo the West, as well as to amass profits. Standards based on patented technologies often require users to pay licensing fees. Nokia Corp. and Qualcomm Inc., for instance, earn billions of dollars annually from patents that underpin cellphone systems made by rivals. China would rather earn that kind of money by designing standards to match technologies developed by its own companies.

Standards are gaining urgency as rules are being decided for a new generation of technologies dependent on 5G networks, including driverless vehicles, so-called smart cities and the Internet of Things—advances that will connect the digital and physical worlds as never before.

New fields including facial recognition touch on privacy and public safety, with greater consequences for national security than in the past, according to the congressional committee.

China is promoting standards that would boost exports for companies with links to Beijing as well as support its state-security apparatus, said Japan’s former trade minister Akira Amari, who heads a Japanese ruling-party group on making society more digital. “If Chinese products are set up to collect data,” he said, “you have to work on the assumption that it will all end up with the Chinese government.”

Chinese officials and executives say Beijing is simply learning to maneuver in a system created and long dominated by the West, and that as one of the world’s largest and fastest-growing economies, China is taking its rightful position in the global business community.

Beijing plans to soon unveil China Standards 2035, an ambitious blueprint for leadership in the field. China’s standards administration and state cabinet didn’t respond to requests for comment.

“Global technical standards are still in the process of being formed,” said

Dai Hong, a member of China's National Standardization Management Committee, when the project was unveiled in 2018. "This gives China's industry and standards the opportunity to surpass the world."

In recent years, China has focused more on aligning research and standards in new technologies with its national interest than the West has, say researchers and standards specialists following Chinese industrial development.

Chinese officials lead at least four global standards organizations, including the International Telecommunication Union, a United Nations body governing phone and internet connectivity, and the International Electrotechnical Commission, an industry group governing electrical and electronic technologies. From 2015 to 2017, a Chinese official headed the International Standards Organization—an industry-led group known as ISO that sells its standards for everything from footwear and management systems to essential oils and sex toys.

China's ascent in standardization coincides with stagnation among the world's longtime leaders. At ISO and similar groups, Chinese delegates hold roughly twice as many secretariat positions compared with a decade ago. The positions provide influence over proposals, debates and priorities. The number occupied by the old guard—including the U.S., Germany and the U.K.—remains relatively stable.

Europe's rivals "are very active in developing international standards in key markets to protect and increase their competitive advantage," EU Internal Market Commissioner Thierry Breton said in June. Failure to respond risks harm to "our economic competitiveness and technological leadership," he said.

Germany and other advanced economies pushed China to adopt global standards in the 1990s. Chinese executives and politicians now have a saying: Third-tier companies make products. Second-tier companies make technology. Top-tier companies set standards.

Beijing and regional governments provide annual stipends of up to one million yuan, about \$155,000, for companies leading development of international standards at ISO and other bodies, according to official documents.

Western funding for standards development, which can take years of costly research and negotiations, has dwindled. Without a change, "we shouldn't be surprised if we end up playing by Chinese rules," said

Christoph Winterhalter, chief executive of the German Institute for Standardization, known as DIN.

Unlike the state-run Standardization Administration of China, DIN is a private organization funded mostly through sales of standards and corporate membership fees. Less than 10% of its funding is from the government.

Breaking tradition

China's ambitions were clear at a 2016 international meeting at the Peppermill Resort in Reno, Nev. Huawei Technologies Corp. demanded adoption of its preferred standard for error-correction in 5G data transfers—methods for overcoming communication glitches that could garble information. A competing Qualcomm proposal already had broad support.

At that meeting of the Third Generation Partnership Project—the global organization that sets 5G standards—Huawei shed a tradition of deferential consensus. Tense debates on the final decision stretched past midnight.

Huawei officials indicated to the other Chinese company executives who attended that they expected their support for Huawei's proposal, said Tong Wen, a Huawei researcher involved in its push. "And, of course, they heard."

The stalemate ended with an unprecedented compromise: Adopt both standards, embedding elements of the 5G technologies.

A year later, Huawei fielded a candidate to lead one of the organization's most important working groups, challenging a candidate from Qualcomm. Before the vote, the chairman admonished Chinese representatives not to take phones into the voting booths--**a practice of Chinese delegations at some United Nations meetings.**

The suspicion, confirmed by Chinese delegates from other companies, was that they all had to show proof they voted with the Huawei candidate, said a person familiar with the vote. A Huawei spokesman said the company acted "in a fully transparent and collaborative way, in line with both the spirit and the rules of the standards process."

Huawei, which holds the most 5G patents of any company, also leads in standards proposals to the Third Generation group, with more than

35,000, according to German data analysis firm IPlytics. One-quarter have been approved.

'It's a trap'

In April, as the world first grappled with Covid-19, Chinese delegates to ISO in Geneva presented plans for a high-tech city able to function in a pandemic. The plans concerned standards for gathering such municipal data as traffic flow and health emergencies. Some delegates wondered if the proposals instead reflected the Chinese government's penchant for data collection, said a participant in the online meeting.

"It's a trap," Mr. Amari, the former Japanese trade minister, said at the time. Approval would mean that China "defines the standard, exports the systems and then mines data from those systems and gathers it in Beijing," he said.

Wan Biyu, chief scientist of the Chinese think tank Smart City Joint Labs and author of the proposal, rejected Mr. Amari's allegation. National data-protection laws can block collection of personal information, he said.

In many next-generation technologies, China leads on standards proposals because it leads the field. When EU officials recently launched a project to build advanced lithium batteries, they were surprised to learn China was already establishing an ISO lithium committee, hosting its Chinese secretariat and appointing committee managers.

In projects from Indonesia to Nigeria, Beijing also is using its Belt and Road Initiative to promote Chinese standards, in such established industries as rail and power transmission. China offers countries subsidies to win the work and then uses its standards to lock in partner nations that would face major costs switching to international standards, industry officials say.

China shows little enthusiasm for standards that touch on its sovereignty. In March 2019, the ISO committee handling systems to write the world's languages on a Western keyboard received a draft standard for typing Cantonese, a version of Chinese spoken by roughly 65 million people in Hong Kong and southeast China.

Technical experts from Hong Kong had drafted it, hoping to help secure the territory's cultural identity. Chinese delegates objected in an email, according to a European former ISO delegate who saw the message, saying the existing standard for China's official language, Mandarin, was

sufficient.

At a meeting in Canada two months later, delegates debated the draft. Proponents from Hong Kong said that Cantonese and Mandarin are mutually unintelligible, despite using similar written characters.

An unusually large Chinese delegation followed with dozens of slides aggressively attacking the draft, unnerving some attendees, said three people familiar with the meeting. A Chinese delegation member told The Wall Street Journal that the proposed writing system is used only in Hong Kong, and not by the 60 million Cantonese speakers elsewhere in China.

The proposal won support from countries including the U.S., Canada and Russia but failed on an administrative technicality. In May, proponents introduced it again and, in September, the French committee manager confirmed its passage, advancing it for adoption, said people familiar with the process.

Soon after, Russia withdrew support without explanation, halting adoption of the measure at least temporarily. Officials at Russia's standards agency didn't respond to requests for comment.

—Chieko Tsuneoka and Josh Chin contributed to this article.

Coming Events January 2022

Virtual Conversation “Global Trends 2040: Priorities ahead”

Speaker: **Maria Langan-Riekhof**, Director, Strategic Futures Group,
National Intelligence Council

Virtual Conversation “Perspectives for a Transatlantic Partnership for 2022”

Speakers: EU and US Administrations

Virtual Conversation TTC Series - “Transatlantic Data flows” (WG 5)

Looking towards TA Week 2022 in July, TPN will run a series of regular events in support of the Joint Transatlantic Agenda and its intersection with the TPN 2030 Vision, with a particular focus on the recently created Trade and Technology Council. This will involve the key stakeholders in the discussions, notably from the political and business sectors with the series designed to offer a platform for interactive dialogue involving government, legislators, business and academia.

Past Events November and December 2021

16 November TPN VIRTUAL CONVERSATION with “Ambassador Lambrinidis: EU Ambassador to the US

Points from the discussion:

Post Trump, the EU in DC has been able to move on from playing ‘defence’ and there has been a sea change in rhetoric and approach. Progress has been made on two debilitating trade disputes, over Airbus/Boeing and over steel and aluminium tariffs levied under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. Approaches to both COP26 and tackling the COVID pandemic had seen transatlantic collaboration. The launch of the TTC at the EU US Summit poses a model for collaboration on setting global rules of the road, up to and including the prospect of a climate/tech alliance. The costs of failure of EU US collaboration, on climate and trade, on WTO reform and the TTC project are high with a retreat into mercantilism to be avoided. Failure to hold to values-based approaches also risks allowing corruption to gain ground, so we should lead by example.

2nd December TPN VIRTUAL CONVERSATION with Jonathan Day, Chief of staff Rep Joe Wilson: “A Congressional Perspective on key TA issues: The importance of staffer exchanges”

Points from the discussion:

There’s an enduring constituency for transatlantic relations in Congress, with non-partisan leadership in evidence through the Committees and caucuses such as the Europe caucus led by Rep Joe Wilson and Rep Brendan Boyle. These are built on the connectivity delivered from foreign direct investment in the districts and states, ties built on heritage, and relationship building in Congress. With a reinvigorated Chiefs of Staff Association in Congress there would be an opportunity to give and get more air time for EU US relations, whether in terms of a formalisation of the Congressional relationship with the Transatlantic Legislators Dialogue, and or publicising and taking advantage of the EU visitors program on offer via the EU Delegation in DC

(see <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/unitedstates/en/european-union-visitors-program>) or TPN’s own staffer exchange programme being launched with this instant event. Physical engagement is important to the relationships that underpin exchange and influence, and inevitably the COVID pandemic has made things more difficult, so there is every hope that as and when that recedes, transatlantic legislative engagement at all levels, will return in full force and effect.

What we are reading, watching, listening to in December

Insights

What we are reading, watching, listening to in December

Transatlantic partnership

After the AUKUS Crisis, Are France-U.S. Relations Back on Track?

Pierre Morcos, CSIS, November 16, 2021

Toward a Trans-Atlantic Strategy on Russia Sanctions

Maria Shagina, Texas National Security Review,

December 6, 2021

Europe Needs to Step Up on Defense

Max Bergmann and Benjamin Haddad, Foreign Affairs,

November 18, 2021

Russia

Is Russia on the Brink of War with Ukraine?

Gideon Rachman, Financial Times, December 2, 2021

Germany

5 takeaways on pact to make Germany great again

Matthew Karnitschnig, Politico, November 24, 2021

Engagement with China

Redefining Engagement with China

Javier Solana, Project Syndicate, November 22, 2021

Digital Transformation

The Pentagon needs a new AI strategy to catch up with China

Nicolas Chaillan, Financial Times, November 22, 2021

Trade and Economy

Beyond Production

Global Value Chain Development Report 2021, November 21, 2021

Sustainability

How 'Climate Migrants' Are Roiling American Politics

Ben Lefebvre, Politico Magazine, November 27, 2021

General Global Interest

The Global Future - An Update

ESPAS Global Trends Mid-Term Report, November 2021