



TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP AND STRATEGY 2030: PERSPECTIVES AND PRIORITIES FOR A NEW VISION

PROJECT OUTLINE JULY 2019

1. Introduction and rationale

As we head for the new decade starting in 2020, there is a real sense that the ability and capacity for the European Union and the United States, through a strong transatlantic partnership, to exert influence on and drive decision-making in the G8 and the G20 is changing fundamentally. While still exerting a significant role in global security, economic and political discussions, the remorseless rise of countries like China and India, not to mention a disruptive Russia, is indeed beginning to change the balance of power. Indeed, almost all forecasts underline that China will, by 2030, have become the largest global economy.

Furthermore, it is also true that the transatlantic relationship itself is under threat from within. Although the relationship with the United States has been an essential component, even enabler, of European policy-making, in the 70 years since the end of WWII, there has been a sense of complacency and lack of awareness of the changes occurring within the American polity from most Europeans.

Already under President Obama, there was a strong policy emphasis initially of a switch to Asia, even if towards the tail-end of his Presidency following the Russian occupation of Crimea, there was a re-emphasis towards Europe. But the ascent of President Trump, and his scepticism concerning the value of multi-lateral relationships and institutions, has undoubtedly been more disruptive leaving stakeholders on both sides of the Atlantic unable to rely on the old norms of the relationship.

And yet, set against the backdrop of an increasingly volatile world facing some of the biggest changes in economic, environmental, social, political and security spheres, one can legitimately argue that an effective transatlantic relationship has never been more important. Those who believe in the long term value of the partnership will need to define a vision for its future which is both relevant and inspirational for both sides and do

so in ways which enables the necessary understanding, investment and compromise, that will ensure its strength and durability.

The Transatlantic Policy Network, which has historically played an important role in driving this thinking, believes that the quest for a new vision needs to start now.

2. Why is TPN qualified to catalyse this exercise?

Since its establishment over 25 years ago, the Transatlantic Policy Network has had a strategic function to strengthen and develop the transatlantic relationship between Europe and the United States built into its' DNA. From the time that TPN provided much of the basis for the New Transatlantic Agenda (NTA) in its Cooperation Project 1994, the Network has been a pathfinder for the EU/US relationship and was an early proponent of the concept of the TA market as early as 2003.

Again, much of the thinking behind the Jobs and Growth initiative (2011) giving rise to the TTIP concept was provided by TPN. More recently, TPN has invested its effort in looking forward to 2020, creating space for new thinking and ideas to emerge which will be vital for the future of the relationship.

Enabling its success has been the fact that TPN is a unique, neutral place which can bring together the political, academic, civil society and business stakeholders to think broadly and strategically, and without special interest, about how to make this relationship work best for both sides, as well as the world.

Taken all together, it is this which leaves TPN extremely well positioned to catalyse this exercise at such a critical point in the evolution of the transatlantic relationship.

3. Moving toward a new vision 2030

Starting in 2019, TPN will return to its original theme of looking strategically at the TA partnership. It will use its unique convening power to bring together relevant political, academic, civil society and business stakeholders on both sides of the Atlantic to explore why the TA relationship matters, its value, and relevance to both sides, and the world, as we move towards 2030.

As part of the exercise, TPN will seek to identify key areas across the transatlantic relationship where there are visible and proven areas of interest for policy cooperation, highlighting the linkages between them. These will include security, political, digital, sustainable development and economic dimensions to enhance the ability of the transatlantic partners to coordinate, evaluate and generate joint actions. These actions will help provide the basis for forward-looking leadership in global forums based on the principles of common values, democracy, rule of law and human rights.

The intention is to look beyond the current day-to-day, to arrive at a vision for the Transatlantic Relationship in 2030, and to develop a roadmap for getting there. We believe that the common interests of the TA partners are sufficiently strong and dynamic to overcome short term individual effort to promote a nationalist approach to international cooperation.

This exercise is at the heart of TPN's renewed strategy and we strongly believe that the process will be as important as the eventual output.

In 2019, we will therefore convene a number of working groups in both Brussels and Washington DC to begin the process of capturing the different perspectives and ideas, from across our members and other stakeholders. These will provide a strong basis for the launch of the project at the TPN reception for the new European Parliament, (in July). Then, a series of structured inputs would be made available for the Transatlantic Week (in November) to begin detailed appraisal during 2020.

In doing this, TPN will be mobilising its profound and broadly-based resources in stimulating and coordinating a politically-led transatlantic exercise lasting over the next decade as part of its normal programming, with the aim of producing clear recommendations at the latest by December 2023 for joint Transatlantic action

