

Strengthening and renewing the transatlantic agenda

A declaration of support signed by Members of the European Parliament and United States Congress

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The transatlantic partnership is at risk. And yet, for all our differences, the vital significance of the transatlantic relationship is not in question: the United States and the European Union remain each other's most significant economic and security partners, as well as the world's most credible axis of democratic stability.

The links between the US and EU economies drive Foreign Direct Investment, trade in goods and services, mutual R&D investment, flows of technology and sales of knowledge intensive services to the direct and lasting benefits of all our workers, consumers, citizens, and companies. Around the world, our consistent, common values (shared by the six NATO countries that are not EU members) with respect to democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights and the climate underpin their collective vision for a global order that benefits all their citizens, and those of other nations, that participate in a rules based multilateral trading system.

It is vital that we strengthen the transatlantic relationship and renew its agenda because current trends on both sides of the Atlantic may jeopardize the achievements in which all of us believe to be the vital driver of our future. Europe matters to America, and America to Europe, because common goals, compatible values, overlapping interests, and complementary capabilities, make each the other's partner of choice.

This is not just a moment of reflection, however—this is a time for action. In a moment impregnated with a certain air of destiny, what is most needed is the will for a partnership nurtured by the extraordinary achievements that lie behind but reinforced by the compelling challenges and opportunities that are ahead, not least the rise of China, which is on its way to become the world's largest economic power by 2030.

Accordingly, we must work together for a renewed agenda that enables collaboration in areas of security (including cyber) and defense (including additional spending), digital transformation (ranging from the future of work to the implications for our democracy), and free and fair rules for trade and investment, shared research and innovation, and action on climate change and sustainable development.

More must be done by us all, on both sides of the Atlantic, to explain the historic achievements of complementary policies that permitted the creation of an ever-larger zone of peace, affluence, and stability in Europe and across the Atlantic. And more must also be done to explain the gains from, and current needs for, the visionary policies that produced and can reinforce such an outcome.

We must clearly identify jointly actionable objectives, for the short term, as well as the medium to long term, to ensure that our relationship is fit for the next decade and beyond, and which commands the support and engagement of decision-makers and citizens alike.

We need to be clear, too, about where our shared interest in working together faces disagreements that must be overcome with processes of consultation that build the consensus needed before decisions are reached and implemented.

We therefore support, and will contribute to, the initiatives taken by the Transatlantic Policy Network to bring legislators, business, academic, and civil society stakeholders to renew the transatlantic agenda and strengthen the ties and bonds between the United States and the European Union.