

SESSION 1

EU-US Trade and Technology Council: Stocktake

Chloe Morice, APA to Professor Danuta Hubner MEP

- The Trade and Technology Council (TTC) is an important construct that has value. Through its presence and activities, the EU and the US have restored habits of transatlantic cooperation that had atrophied.
- The TTC has helped forge important channels of communication between the EU and the US. While it is the main forum to float, vet and work on trade and tech policy areas, it is not the place for negotiated bargains from each other.
- Arising from the latest deliverables at TTC 4 in Sweden at the end of May, calling out China directly for the first time and looking at key issues such as critical raw minerals, it has shown that it has become more than a photo-op.
- The Transatlantic initiative on Sustainable Trade includes an ambitious set of topics aiming to make EU and US trade policies supportive of the green transition. Nevertheless, a feeling was expressed that upstream EU-US cooperation opportunities on important files such as the DSA/DMA/Chips Act were missed.
- The panel agreed that the TTC should always be open to improving the format to ensure that progress is made. Both the EU and US administrations are trying to incorporate more real-time engagement with stakeholders ahead of TTC Principles meetings. This could be facilitated by changing the timeline of the frequency of Principles' meetings to allow for more check-ins with stakeholders.
- Sometimes, discussions are reduced to an executive-to-executive exercise. Both stakeholders and legislators shared their strong wish to be more involved in the TTC discussions. The European Parliament has argued for a more structured dialogue within the Transatlantic Legislators Dialogue, wanting a working group/subcommittee structure that plays a more proactive role in getting the work done effectively.
- The question of institutionalizing the TTC is not being raised among administrations. There are conversations, however, on how to make the TTC more productive and how it could be a model for future engagement.