

WEDNESDAY 26TH JULY

SESSION 10

Fireproofing the EU-US Relationship: Strengthening Transatlantic Partnership

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Introduction & Global Overview

- This session focused on concrete steps and deliverables, a call for action, specifically noting that transatlantic solidarity is essential and a ‘new compass’ is needed.
- While there are many precedents to build upon, a variety of decisions on both sides of the Atlantic illustrated the lack of consultation before implementation. More ambition is needed.
- The upcoming EU-US summit this fall is the occasion to act on this new compass, focusing on
 - Recognizing each other’s health, safety, and environmental regulations
 - Common principles on both sides of the Atlantic for economies
 - Reconstituting the transatlantic business dialogue
 - Transatlantic dialogue forming an assembly modeled after NATO’s assembly
 - And finally, that EU-US summits must be on the president’s schedule
- Additionally, NATO remains extremely important

[\(See remarks made by Ambassador Eizenstat since published in the Financial Times\)](#)

A Renewed Transatlantic Declaration

- TPN has been at the forefront of fireproofing the EU-US relationship for 30 years and proposes the following for the upcoming EU-US Summit:
 - Presidents at the EU US Summit commit themselves to crafting a new partnership framework in place by March 2024 before EU-US enter into elections
 - Stressing a new transatlantic framework agreement will not succeed without a shared political and public commitment to come together to face common challenges
- More government-to-government dialogue is not enough to build bridges between businesses, consumers, laborers, etc. We also:
 - Need to strengthen the relationship between the EU Parliament and the US Congress
 - Need greater strategic foresight – how we can all share assessment of long-term trends
 - Need to ensure that this new framework is linked to NATO’s evolving mission
 - Need to have regular annual summits, as the framework will require regular consultation

Viewpoints: Legislators and Business

- Legislators
 - It is in the US’ best interest to support EU, ensuring that trade relationships make sense in terms of common values and national interest - focusing on one-off wins
 - After Putin’s invasion of Ukraine, the veil of naivete is lifted for dealing with despots
 - The key to cooperation and fireproofing the relationship is to find a balance of rationality of domestic, transatlantic, and global responsibilities
 - TTC allows EU-US to move towards common goals:
 - Allows for environmental fireproofing convergence
 - Clean energy incentive dialogue – important for the business community
 - Transatlantic initiative on sustainable trade
 - Allows EU-US to cooperate and collaborate on standards

- Rules-based international order
 - *EU-US relationships will not flourish if we each keep our yards too small and our fences too high*
- Business
 - Transatlantic relations are core to business's DNA
 - Pushing shift from globalization to *glocalization* = bringing global issues to a local level
 - Role with industry & government → not just fireproofing, but future-proofing
 - If T-TIP wasn't possible – it's a fair question to ask 'what is'? What can we do?
 - Ensure transatlantic dialogue is more visible to all businesses, including small and medium-sized businesses
 - Three suggestions were given to push towards greater ambition within the TTC
 - (1) Continue to converge our economies
 - (2) Governments can rededicate themselves to active, transparent communications between regulatory bodies
 - (3) EU-US partnerships that lie outside the realm of trade and investment

Views on US-EU-NATO Dimensions

- This session focused on discussions of defense and current challenges between the EU, NATO, and the US, highlighting that while European countries have spent more money on defense, there has been a decline in European defense *cooperation*
 - There is a need for frank conversation about what the US wants from European security
 - Discussion over how NATO can leverage the EU to encourage integration and cooperation amongst European militaries
 - And that the question of whether Europe can support Ukraine is a very real one
- While the discussion was not advocating for the formation of an EU military, the following was reflected upon as steps to take towards cooperation and moving in the right direction –
 - Focus on highlighting real gaps that prevent European countries from working together.

If European countries all buying different things, you don't get economies of scale

 - EU then to highlight those gaps and facilitate funding to close them
- There can also be issues with progress with a non-EU NATO Secretary General, including seeing a lot of distrust and bureaucratic fighting over very little between EU and NATO
- Idea brought forward regarding one US ambassador between EU and NATO, maybe 3 DCMs
- In terms of soft power peace in the midst of weapons and defense, it was discussed that the US underinvests in soft power diplomatic tools while Europe has neglected the hard power side. Hard power capacity integrated with soft power capacity is crucial.

[See Professor Jamie Shea - Europe's hour has come](#)

Conclusion

- Relatively good place in this transatlantic relationship, but complacency is our biggest enemy
- Action is urgently needed to fireproof the EU-US relationship while there is time still to do so
- Approval of the revised Transatlantic Declaration proposed by TPN to establish a new EU-US partnership framework. Time for all to mobilize with a view to placing this idea for discussion at the EU US Summit planned during the fall.

[See - A revised Transatlantic Declaration \(proposal dated 13 June 2023\)](#)

[See - FIREPROOFING THE EU US RELATIONSHIP: IN SEARCH OF A NEW COMPASS](#)