



**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BRUSSELS**

**TUESDAY 2 APRIL – WEDNESDAY 3 APRIL 2024**

**“Challenges Ahead for EU US Relations: Developing a Roadmap towards 2030”**

2024 is shaping up to be an unusual year. Not only are there an unprecedented number of countries going to the polls, with more than 50 elections taking place across the globe mobilising more than a quarter of the world’s population. But, closer to home, elections to the European Parliament take place from 6 - 9 June with a new European Commission being chosen by the autumn. US Presidential elections take place on Tuesday 5 November. Such a constellation has not occurred in transatlantic relations since 2004.

This provides TPN with the opportunity to assess progress made with its Transatlantic Vision 2030 exercise started in 2019. We can see how unexpected events such as the COVID pandemic which began in March 2020; the brutal Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, followed by the unfolding Israel Hamas war in the Middle East started on 7 October 2023 have fundamentally altered the transatlantic relationship.

Drawing on the results of these assessments, we will focus our discussions on the way ahead towards 2030 to see how best to handle the enormous challenges facing the transatlantic partnership and identify priorities for joint action. As part of these discussions, we will review how best to fireproof the EU US relationship to ensure that scarce resources are used to maximum effect during the period 2025 to 2028 when new US and EU administrations come into power.

So in this year of elections, TPN is organising its flagship event Transatlantic Week 2024 for the first time in Brussels, staging the event at the European Parliament Library, in a similar way that the US Library of Congress has been used for previous TA Weeks in Washington DC

This years’ TA Week will run from the afternoon of Tuesday 2 April to the evening of Wednesday 3 April. Starting with the opening session on the Tuesday afternoon, there will be sessions looking at the Outlook for Transatlantic Partnership and the geopolitical challenges. There will then be a welcoming cocktail for all participants that evening. On Wednesday morning, there will sessions on economic and trade; sustainability and digital transformation assessing the key priorities going forward. Wednesday afternoon will provide the opportunity to see where we are with the Compass Project and discuss ideas as to how to achieve an ambitious TA Partnership framework by 2030.

We would be delighted if you would join us in this search for ideas for joint action together.

# DRAFT OUTLINE PROGRAMME

**TUESDAY 2 APRIL 2024**

## **SESSION 1**

**15.00 – 15.15**      Opening comments

## **SESSION 2**

**15.15 – 16.00**      **Outlook for Transatlantic Partnership**

Momentous events are underway across the globe: the world is indeed on fire. The Russian invasion of Ukraine still continues after more than 2 years open conflict while the Israeli/ Hamas war has the potential to spread across the Middle East. These are dangerous times for the transatlantic partners, the need for their close cooperation more urgent than ever. What are the greatest priorities that they have to resolve in the months ahead?

## **SESSION 3**

**16.00 – 16.30**      **Geopolitical Outlook (Part 1) - Overview: Outlook to 2030 and beyond**

## **SESSION 4:**

**16.30 – 17.15**      **Geopolitical Outlook (Part 2) - Russia:**

Russia has emerged as a hostile, militarily aggressive power in Europe with its invasion of Ukraine and has moved decisively into Beijing's orbit. The emerging perspective is that the world is moving towards a system of regional political and economic blocs, heavily armed and permanently in competition for technological leadership and access to key mineral and food resources.

Will the transatlantic partnership show sufficient political leadership to win the war in Ukraine?

## **SESSION 5:**

**17.00 – 18.00**      **Geopolitical Outlook (Part 3) - China:**

The economic rise of China to be the world's largest economic power has long been predicted. As the geopolitical order changes, the central question now becomes how to balance national security interests to secure critical technologies and materials while also continuing to advance a strong bilateral trade and investment relationship. Both the EU and the US are de-risking ties with Beijing reshoring production and considering limits on Chinese investment in their economies. How can the US and the EU focus on issues of common interest to build an effective joint approach for China?

## **SESSION 6:**

**18.00 – 21.00**      **Walking Dinner** - Hosted by Google

Location:      Google Office, d'Etterbeek 180, 1040 Brussels

## **WEDNESDAY 3 APRIL 2023**

### **SESSION 7: Breakfast in conversation**

### **SESSION 8:**

#### **9.15 – 10.15 Economy and Trade**

Trade policy is going through an existential re-set. Domestic politics on both sides of the Atlantic raise questions about globalization – and the ability of countries to agree to common approaches and principles. But companies still manufacture and distribute; buy and sell; and employ workers around the world.

The US and EU have common challenges, but also a common agenda to promote supply chain resiliency, balance economic security with market access and create the enabling environment for sustainable trade and investment that creates long-term economic growth. Former Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi has been tasked to prepare a report for the European Commission on how to tackle EU competitiveness.

How can those common interests lead to a common policy agenda? And how can European and American businesses contribute to developing and delivering on that future-forward trade agenda?

### **SESSION 9:**

#### **10.15 – 11.15 Sustainability**

Sustainability, inclusion, and growth offer a powerful synergy and are considered the building blocks necessary to deliver a prosperous and green future. Government and business have a common agenda – to meet the current challenges of the climate crisis and with products and services designed to transition energy to more sustainable fuels, to address food security challenges and to innovate a better and more circular approach to scarce resources. Circularity is one approach to ensure that the renewable energy fuels production process reduces emissions; while developing products that can be recycled and reused. Consumers are demanding action of companies and of governments to deliver policies and products that reduce cost and create options.

The EU US Trade and Technology Council has launched the Transatlantic Initiative for Sustainable Trade (TIST), which aims to set up a Transatlantic Green Marketplace. How can the US and the EU translate that idea into concrete actions that encourage investment in sustainable value chains that deliver economic progress with environmental solutions?

#### **11.15 – 11.30 Coffee Break**

## **SESSION 10:**

### **11.30 – 12.45      Digital Transformation**

The speed of digital transformation shows no sign of slackening. Changes which took place 30 years ago took a year to reach 1 million subscribers: today it is a matter of days. The EU and the US have made important progress to address common challenges with the Trade and Technology Council, for example dealing with questions relating to data transfer and semiconductors and cyber.

Looking down the road towards 2040, AI promises to be a huge global disruptor. Today, the EU favours a regulatory approach, most recently agreeing the world's first comprehensive Regulation on AI, while the US is focussing its efforts to deliver broader ambitions making space for innovation. How can common ground be found between these two approaches towards 2030 e.g. for AI? Can a transatlantic digital market be created over time?

## **SESSION 11**

### **13.00 – 14.15      Buffet Lunch hosted by the European Internet Forum (EIF) Priorities for EU digital policy**

## **SESSION 12**

### **14.15 – 15.00      Developing the TPN Staffer Network**

## **SESSION 13**

### **15.00 – 16.15      Key challenges ahead for EU US relations 2025 - 2028**

This session will allow participants to feed in their thoughts on the key challenges ahead during the period 2025 - 2028 when new US and EU administrations will have come into power on both sides of the Atlantic. Short summaries generated by AI will be available from the previous sessions to underpin the discussions. Can issues for the transatlantic partners, both of a bilateral as well as a multilateral nature be prioritised? How can the EU and the US best handle the situation in the Middle East or the problems of the Global South?

## **SESSION 14**

### **16.15 – 17.30      Transatlantic Vision 2030 – Compass Project: Next steps**

There is a strongly held belief that urgent action needs to be taken to strengthen the EU US relationship given the broad and deepening challenges ahead. Fireproofing the EU US relationship lies at the heart of this Project. Given the wide-ranging tasks undertaken by the EU and US partners, deepening following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, there urgently needs to be a focus on what the EU US framework is intended to achieve.

Currently, there are two Transatlantic Agendas underpinning the relationship – the New Transatlantic Agenda (1995) and the Joint Transatlantic Agenda (2021) with no links between them. Bringing the two Agendas together within a Partnership framework would provide a vital step for greater coherence. TPN recommends that the main features of this action plan be part of updating the Transatlantic Declaration 1990, enabling greater involvement of Congress, the European Parliament and the business community.

As this process takes place, it will be necessary to clarify the linkages between the deepening EU US relationship and NATO. What specific actions are now needed to make this proposal a reality? Can this be addressed at the NATO Summit planned for July 2024 in Washington DC?

**SESSION 15**

**17.30 – 18.00**

**Conclusions**

**SESSION 16**

**19.00 – 21.30**

**Cocktail/Dinner hosted by AmCham EU**

**Location:**

**AmCham EU, Da Vinci room, 56 Avenue des Arts, 1000 Brussels**