TOWARDS TRANSATLANTIC WEEK 2024

"CHALLENGES FOR THE EU US RELATIONSHIP: DEVELOPING A ROADMAP TO 2030"

In the 14 years since its first edition, Transatlantic Week has become a diary priority for legislators, policymakers, analysts as well as business strategists for discussions on building bridges across the Atlantic.

Until now, it was always held in Washington DC. This year, however, 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.

Background

Transatlantic Week has traditionally been a place where the focus is to work for a more tightly bonded transatlantic partnership between the EU and the US based on discussion, debate, and strategic collaboration.

The result from Transatlantic Week 2022 was to explore ideas of how to fireproof the EU-US relationship towards 2024, driven by key challenges facing the transatlantic partners, made more intense by the provocative and brutal invasion of Ukraine by Russia. This direction was continued from Transatlantic Week 2023, where the three key takeaways were:

- Endorsement of a Renewed Transatlantic Declaration originally signed in 1990 and not updated since that date;
- Full support for and engagement with the Trade and Technology Council (TTC); and
- The launch of the TPN Staffers Network.

Towards Transatlantic Week 2024

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, the EU will hold elections for the European Parliament from 6 – 9 June, which will then lead to Parliaments' approval of a new, or renewed, Commission President and a new set of EU Commissioners. In November, the US will hold Presidential and Congressional elections, with the president taking office in January, along with a new Congress. Such a constellation has not occurred in transatlantic relations since 2004.

Progress so far

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.

This year's 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 be sessions on economy and trade, sustainability, and digital transformation, assessing the key priorities going forward. Wednesday afternoon will enable us to see how well our efforts to include a younger generation through building a staffers network is progressing.

Furthermore, we will examine how to recommit to a strengthened framework of institutional relationships with greater involvement of Congress, the European Parliament, and the business community. Currently on the table is the TPN proposal to do this through renewing the TA Declaration 1990, resulting from ideas generated in the Compass Project (a part of the overall Transatlantic Vision 2030 exercise).

Post Transatlantic Week 2024

We are looking forward to an intense search for ideas, helping to shape our future together. Priorities and recommendations highlighted at our meeting will be at the

core of our ongoing activities as we continue to pursue the goal of a strengthened transatlantic partnership. During the remainder of 2024, keeping the structure already developed, we will seek to identify key issues on which to focus, with particular attention to priorities for the period 2025 – 2028. We will draw up a report summarising these reflections for presentation to incoming EU and US administrations in December 2024, helping to establish a roadmap towards 2030.