

The logo for Transatlantic Week 2024 is displayed within a dark blue rectangular box. The word "Transatlantic" is written in a white, sans-serif font, with a thin red vertical line separating the "at" from "lantic". Below it, the word "week" is written in a red, lowercase, sans-serif font, and "2024" is written in a yellow, lowercase, sans-serif font.

# Transatlantic week 2024

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## SESSION 8 Developing the TPN Staffer Network

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**Sarah Lenti, Gianluca Nigro, Sally Ancheva, Gary Klaukka, John Lynch, and Emilia Plowiecki**

The session discussed the establishment and objectives of a transatlantic network for staffers from the United States and Europe, aiming to foster mutual education, policy debate, person-to-person networking, and the development of transatlantic leadership. This network, formed over the previous year, seeks to facilitate regular virtual meetings, with an aspiration for annual in-person gatherings to enhance dialogue and cooperation between staffers on both sides of the Atlantic. Key points from the discussion included:

- The importance of continuous learning and understanding between the US and European institutions, highlighting the critical role of staffers in maintaining and strengthening transatlantic relationships.
- The network serves as a platform for sharing values, expanding relationships beyond executive and legislative levels to staff-to-staff interactions, emphasizing the need for sustained engagement to address global challenges collaboratively.
- Personal narratives underscored the significance of the transatlantic relationship as a non-guaranteed entity, requiring active effort to promote and maintain, particularly at a time when perspectives on the EU-NATO-US alliance vary between and within the regions.
- The importance of including the business perspective in dialogues, recognizing that companies often highlight legislative developments that could impact them, suggesting that early, cohesive discussions can lead to more effective legislation and policymaking.

The discussion moved towards operational goals for the network, such as increasing membership, enhancing spontaneity in communications, especially in response to crises,

and establishing topic-focused working groups to deepen discussions on specific policy areas.

Overall, the session highlighted a collective understanding of the critical role this network could play in fostering stronger transatlantic ties, emphasizing the value of direct, personal connections and trusted relationships between staffers as a foundation for effective collaboration and mutual support in facing global challenges.