



TRANSATLANTIC VISION 2030 EXERCISE

SUBSTANTIVE PHASE (PART 2): PERIOD FROM 2025 – 2028

PREPARATORY ACTIONS

APRIL TO DECEMBER 2024

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Today, the transatlantic relationship is in a much better place than it was in 2019. NATO is stronger and more united than before. But with a major war in Europe that shows no sign of ending and a Middle East conflict that shows no sign of abating, the US and the EU, once their elections finished, need urgently to assess together how they can act jointly to be more effective in bringing peace to the world and increased prosperity for all. Building on what has already been achieved, TPN will now firm up proposals for new EU and US incoming administrations from 2025 onwards, to be presented in December 2024.

INTRODUCTION:

2024 is shaping up to be an unusual year. There are an unprecedented number of countries going to the polls, with around 50 elections taking place across the globe mobilising about a quarter of the world's population. Moreover, elections for the European Parliament take place in June, with a new European Commission being chosen by the autumn. US Presidential elections take place on Tuesday, November 5. Such a constellation has not occurred in transatlantic relations since 2004.

On both sides of the Atlantic, the domestic environment for elections promises to be turbulent, with unexpected results potentially emerging. All the more important to be ready with policy proposals should there be positive outcomes in both the US and the EU for there are fundamental challenges that we share.

CONTENT: SCENE SETTER

The US, the EU and its Member States are uniquely and intimately bound together through a web of shared interests and values unparalleled in today's world. United in their initial efforts to rebuild a war-torn world, the U.S. and what became the European Union forged

the creation of a rules-based multilateral trading system to the benefit of Americans, Europeans, and people all over the world. They now face the task of adapting that system to the rapidly emerging digital economy. Climate change poses a new, profound, shared challenge to the planet and the viability of future generations. China is a growing competitor. And the re-emergence of Russia as a security threat poses a resurgent test.

Fortunately, in the face of their joint challenges, Americans and Europeans are fortified by their shared values: respect for democracy, the rule of law, human dignity, intellectual freedom, civil liberties, human rights, and commitment to the viability of the environment. Thanks to these common values and interests, Europe and the United States have become each other's most significant economic partners, comprising the world's deepest and broadest trade and investment relationship. NATO, their security partnership, has widened and strengthened over the past 75 years in the face of a changing threat environment.

European and American democracies have evolved from bulwarks against Communist dictatorships to become beacons of democracy amid a global sea of rising authoritarianism. To explore the interface of American and European shared values and interests and to highlight the important role the business community, members of Congress, and the European Parliament can play in future U.S.-EU cooperation, TPN will convene a series of conversations, mostly online, for TPN members with practitioners and academic experts, loosely organized around four themes, assessing the impact on the transatlantic partnership framework (see Annex 1 attached). For the transatlantic partnership component, the conclusions of Session 14 of Transatlantic Week 2024 are attached in Annex 2.

PRINCIPLES:

The following principles will be followed in preparing the second substantive phase for the Transatlantic Vision 2030 exercise from January 2025 to December 2028:

- Maintain political leadership to ensure a balanced approach throughout. The structure already developed will be kept, organising events around the four themed pillars of geopolitics, economy and trade, sustainability, and digital transformation with an overarching framework on transatlantic partnership.
- Continue reflection of how best to provide a strengthened EU-US partnership framework involving the business and political communities, without which it cannot really function effectively.
- Consider how the newfound interest within the EU on defence matters can be best aligned with NATO.
- Identify the key issues under these headings on which to focus, in particular taking into account priorities for the period running from 2025 – 2028, for example, the Global South.
- Engage relevant experts to participate in areas of special interest.
- Consult widely within the network and outside over this period, sounding out the best ideas as to how to achieve this new framework.
- Organise events on these issues (mostly online by Zoom call) during this period, dependent on when those responsible for the events are ready to run with them.

- Encourage where practical TPN partners to assist in the organisation of specific events.
- Remain in constant contact with leading personalities in the EU and US administrations as well as relevant international organisations.
- Draw up a draft interim report by the end of August on key issues covered so far, with the final report for presentation to the US and EU administrations in December.

PROCESS

TPN convened a meeting on Thursday, 4 April, following on from TAW24 in Brussels, starting this preparatory exercise with Bruce Stokes, the project coordinator, setting out the way in which we intend to proceed, with additional remarks from Ambassador D’Hoop, acting political director for the Belgian Presidency.

The first major issue to deal with was to assess what TPN could do to follow up on the TLD Statement of 5 April. This recommended “to EU leaders that in their conclusions of the June European Council, special consideration be given to the strengthening of cooperation and partnership between the EU, its Member States and the US.”

In recent weeks, TPN has been working closely with the Belgian EU Presidency to see whether its proposals for a strengthened EU-US platform could help achieve this objective. Conversations with leading EU-US and NATO officials are currently being organised.

A draft timeline has been drawn up for this process and is set out below. There are four main issue specific themes which will be covered when the relevant people are available. The overarching theme of transatlantic partnership will be covered on a continuing basis.

Bruce Stokes will be available during this period to discuss ideas with TPN members in order to take account of all aspects of policy and points of view.

It should be noted that this draft program of events relates solely to the preparatory exercise. Additional events are being organised as part of TPN's overall 2024 program.

THE TPN TEAM

7 JUNE 2024

ANNEX 1: DRAFT TIMELINE FOR THE PERIOD APRIL- DECEMBER 2024

APRIL Consult and confirm the draft programme for the remainder of 2024

23 April Call with Stu Eizenstat, Danuta Hubner MEP, and Rep Jim Costa

MAY/JUNE:

May **Outlook for Transatlantic Partnership**
Challenges ahead for the EU-US from 2025 onwards?

6 May Virtual Conversations with EU Administration (Stefano Sannino)

June

21 June Virtual Conversation on Fireproofing the Transatlantic Relationship

28 June Virtual Conversation with US Administration (Amb Julie Smith)

Virtual Conversation with US Administration (Jacqueline Ramos)
Virtual Conversation with EU Administration (Commissioner Vestager)

May – November **Transatlantic Partnership – the Compass Project**

Virtual Conversations with Bruce Stokes and others
EU-US Partnership framework; Business and political dimensions

June Fireproofing the EU-US relationship
Other meetings will be organised as and when required.

JUNE

June **Economy and Trade**
17 June Virtual Conversation with Dan Mullaney (Atlantic Council)
“Future of EU-US trade relationship”

June/September **Geopolitics**
24 June Virtual Conversation with Max Bergmann (CSIS)
Develop an EU-US approach to the Global South,
e.g., the Indo-Pacific region

JULY **NATO 75 SUMMIT – WASHINGTON DC**

August Draft interim report

SEPTEMBER/NOVEMBER

September **Transatlantic Partnership**
Virtual conversation
“Future evolution of TA defence issues: EU-US-NATO”

September **Geopolitics**
Virtual conversation
“*Ukraine absorption into transatlantic structures*”

OCTOBER

October **Digital Transformation**
Virtual conversation
Priority for skills/education, innovation/growth, and geopolitics

October **Sustainability**
Virtual Conversation
TA Cooperation on sustainability
Cocktail for new MEPs in EP

NOVEMBER 2024:

November **Transatlantic Partnership**

November Virtual Conversation with Polish EU Presidency

DECEMBER 2024:

December Online presentation of report

FEBRUARY 2025:

February TPN Visit to Washington DC for an in-person presentation for MEPs and staffers

Cocktail party for new US Congress members

SESSION 14 Transatlantic Vision 2030 – Compass Project: Next steps

James Elles, Bruce Stokes, Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat, Ambassador Ghislain D’Hoop, and Mark Fischer

The session reflected on the current state of EU-US relations, the challenges ahead, the need for urgent action to strengthen the relationship given broad and deepening challenges, and the importance of engaging both the business and political communities in this process.

Proposals included:

- Negotiate a renewed "Transatlantic Free Trade and Investment Agreement" to create an essentially barrier-free transatlantic marketplace within ten years
- Establish formal consultation mechanisms so major policies impacting each other's economies are coordinated in advance
- Create a Transatlantic Assembly modeled on NATO's parliamentary body to institutionalize legislative engagement
- Recognize and integrate the EU's growing role in security affairs alongside NATO
- Revitalize transatlantic dialogues that atrophied, like the Transatlantic Business Dialogue

The strategic importance of deepening transatlantic economic integration and cooperation in addressing global challenges such as climate change, security, protecting supply chains, and managing technological breakthroughs was highlighted. Regulatory convergence is seen as important, aiming for a “tested once, accepted in both markets” approach rather than full harmonization, given the different regulatory environments

Also noted was the impact of political shifts, including the rise of far-right parties in Europe and the potential implications of the upcoming elections in both the EU and the US on transatlantic relations.