



**TRANSATLANTIC VISION 2030  
TOWARDS A STRENGTHENED TRANSATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP 2030  
PROGRESS SO FAR 2019 - 2024**

**BRIEFING NOTE FOR TRANSATLANTIC WEEK 2024**

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## INTRODUCTION

TPN was started in December 1992 through a launch in the European Parliament in Strasbourg in the presence of the three Presidents of the main EU institutions, with a message from the White House welcoming the launch. Since then, TPN has remained steadfast in pursuit of the goal of a strengthened transatlantic partnership.

In early 2019, the foundations were laid for this exercise spanning over the decade 2020 – 2030 called the Transatlantic Relationship and Strategy 2030: Developing a New Vision”, now known as Transatlantic Vision 2030.

Succinctly put at the outset (see attachment 1):

**“The intention is to look beyond current day-to-day events, arriving at a new vision for the transatlantic relationship through to 2030, and to develop a roadmap for getting there. As part of the exercise, TPN will seek to identify key areas across the transatlantic relationship where there are visible and proven areas of interest for policy cooperation, highlighting the linkages between them”.**

**THE TPN TEAM**

**28 MARCH 2024**

## **Chapter 1**

### **CHRONOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT**

At the launch in July 2019 in Strasbourg, it was recognised that the state of the transatlantic partnership was not good. Indeed, in the memorable words of Simon Serfaty, it was arguably the worst ever, now at risk. But he emphasised that ‘in a world of mutation, the transatlantic partnership remains vital for extending into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century the global order we built during the latter half of the twentieth’.

TPN commissioned think pieces to provide input into five major areas of policymaking – Digital Transformation, Trade and Investment, Sustainable Development, Security and Defense, and the Transatlantic Partnership, setting out an executive summary with recommendations for each area of policymaking (see attachment 2). These were published through an interim report in September 2020 following a series of roundtables, workshops, and online conversations (see attachment 3).

This paved the way to the Substantive Phase running to 2024 (see attachment 4). As explained in the document, ‘this is about examining, testing and framing ideas for the Partnership to give it content and objectives to be achieved by 2030’. It was launched at TAW 2021. The titles of subsections were modified in light of exchanges becoming Geopolitics, Digital Transformation, Economy and Trade, Sustainability, and Transatlantic Partnership.

The dynamic of the exercise changed irrevocably with the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Arising from TAW22, TPN recognised that there was an urgent need to draw attention to fireproofing the EU-US relationship, launching the Compass Project.

Following widespread debate, this resulted in a call to update the Transatlantic Declaration of 1990, calling for a considerably strengthened EU-US partnership framework. This document was agreed at TAW23 (see attachment 5). In essence, TPN is suggesting that a New Compass be created for the transatlantic partnership, which will enable all the key actors to meet and take joint decisions together, achieving tangible outcomes across a range of issues that will promote transatlantic values, security and prosperity.

## **Chapter 2**

### **POLICY DEVELOPMENTS: KEY PRIORITY ISSUES**

Strategic challenges, as noted in the latest US 2022 National Security Strategy document, are now twofold, very different from even a decade ago. First, those relating to geopolitical competition. ‘The post-Cold War era is over, and a competition is underway between the major powers to shape what comes next’. The Russian invasion of Ukraine is a profound

challenge to the rules-based international order in place since the Second World War. The rise of China is advancing an alternative vision for the international order, with the BRICs having a more visible global role.

Second is the speed with which transnational tests are multiplying across borders. These include not only the well-known challenges of climate change, food insecurity and energy transition but also the effects of the COVID pandemic on supply chains and digital transformation. What has become crystal clear is that the number and intensity of key issues facing the transatlantic partners have massively increased. Short summaries of these points under their sectoral nomenclature show that the transatlantic dimension is present in every major area of policy, quite unlike 2019 when this exercise was started (see Annex 1).

### **Chapter 3**

#### **STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP**

TPN has recognised that there is a growing belief that urgent action needs to be taken to strengthen the EU-US relationship, given the broad and deepening challenges ahead. We are living through a geopolitical whirlwind where there is a real sense of fragility, with deep concern as to whether our institutions are resilient enough to meet the challenges ahead.

Action is required by the Transatlantic Partners to agree on a considerably strengthened EU-US partnership framework, fireproofing the EU-US relationship for the decade ahead. We are indeed searching for a new Compass.

Fireproofing the EU-US relationship lies at the heart of this Project. Given the wide-ranging tasks undertaken by the EU and US partners, deepened 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 (see Annex 2 for details).

TPN welcomes the significant work being done by the Trade and Technology Council (TTC) providing a platform for discussion on key issues of concern on both sides of the Atlantic. Looking forward to the future, however, TPN believes that further steps should urgently be taken, creating a strengthened transatlantic partnership framework for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Updating the Transatlantic Declaration 1990 to include the main features of the action plan is the simplest way to achieve this aim. This will illustrate that both major players of the Western World strongly believe that their futures are entwined together, providing the opportunity for the world of business and politics to be more involved with the process.

As this process takes place, it will be necessary to clarify the linkages between the deepening EU-US relationship and NATO. Starting in 2022, TPN now publishes an annual analysis of this dynamic relationship (see attachment 6).

## **ANNEX 1**

### **THE RAPID RISE OF KEY CHALLENGES TO BE MET TOGETHER**

TPN has tended to focus its activities on those areas where there is the greatest chance of making progress together in the months ahead. The three top areas under each heading are set out below.

#### **GEOPOLITICS**

##### **➤ 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?

##### **➤ 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?

##### **➤ The Middle East**

On 7 October, the Hamas attack on Israel triggered an Israeli/Hamas war, which continues unabated. The role of Iran is central to this recent upheaval, with its sponsorship of several groups intent on undermining initiatives for peace in the region. Both the EU and the US have a real interest in finding a way to bring a ceasefire to Gaza and starting a process towards a peaceful settlement of the overarching issues concerned.

## **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.

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?

Key issues include:

- WTO reform
- Supply chains
- Innovation, R&D, and chips

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

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 governments to deliver policies and products that reduce costs 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?

Key issues include:

- “The Potential for Renewed Leadership (EU-US High-Level Climate Action Group)”
- “Next-gen innovation for sustainable agriculture”
- “EU-US Energy Council”

## **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. 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 on delivering broader ambitions, making space for innovation. How can common ground be found between these two approaches, e.g. for AI? Can a transatlantic digital market be created by 2030?

Key issues include:

- Transatlantic data flows
- 5G deployment
- AI framework



## **ANNEX 2**

### **FIREPROOFING THE EU-US RELATIONSHIP: IN SEARCH OF A NEW COMPASS**

At Transatlantic Week 2023 in Washington in July, there were broad exchanges on the challenges ahead and firm support for steps to be taken to enhance the effectiveness of the transatlantic relationship to resolve them together. But many felt that the EU-US partnership is capable of acting more effectively together if its current structure, dating back to the mid-1990s, was enhanced.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The EU-US relationship reached a milestone with the signing of the Transatlantic Declaration in November 1990, which set out the key issues to be discussed together, 'endowing their relationship with long-term perspectives'. This laid the basis for the New Transatlantic Agenda (NTA) in December 1995, with a detailed joint action plan divided into four key sections for action.

This Agenda was complemented by the Joint Transatlantic Agenda (JTA) in June 2021, also setting out four key areas for action, entitled "Towards a renewed Transatlantic Partnership". This included the setting up of a Trade and Technology Council (TTC).

Regrettably, these two documents are not linked in any way and make no reference to the Transatlantic Declaration of 1990. Furthermore, they are both providing the means for the executive to cooperate but have no effective way for the political or business communities to be involved in the process.

Although the TTC is viewed as a promising way for the EU and the US to cooperate on trade and technological matters, there are huge geopolitical challenges which require a stronger framework for there to be joint actions. Discussions relating to the US Inflation Reduction Act would be helped were there to be a more robust platform to manage EU-US differences as they arise.

## THE TPN COMPASS PROJECT ACTION PLAN

It is proposed that the following elements should form part of the Action Plan:

**Bringing the two Agendas together within a Partnership framework would provide a vital step for greater coherence.** With the wide variety of dialogues underway, there needs to be better focus of what the EU-US framework is intended to achieve, not least in the light of the additional tasks now being handled resulting from the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

**Reactivate the idea of building bridges as contained in the NTA.** The aims of the agendas will be more easily achieved if they are inclusive beyond the EU and US administrations alone. It is essential that the idea of building bridges contained in the NTA be reinvigorated, not least enabling business and labour to interact regularly.

**Strengthening the political dimension** between the European Parliament and the US Congress is critical to ensure success of the overall process, bringing all those together who wish to be a part of creating the renewed transatlantic partnership.

**Develop means of cooperating on strategic foresight together.** It would also be of considerable significance if the tentative efforts underway to cooperate on foresight within the EU-US framework progressed, e.g. doing joint work on issues of common concern.

**Ensure that this evolving EU-US dynamic is properly linked to the NATO dimension.**

## ATTACHMENTS

### 1). PROJECT OUTLINE

TPN-Perspectives-and-Priorities-for-a-new-vision-2030-July-Strasbourg.pdf

<https://tpnonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/TPN-Perspectives-and-Priorities-for-a-new-vision-2030-July-Strasbourg.pdf>

### 2). TPN PAPERS

**Executive Summary: Restoring a transatlantic sense of purpose - Robin Nibblet**

<https://tpnonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Executive-Summary-Restoring-a-transatlantic-sense-of-purpose-Robin-Nibblet.pdf>

**Transatlantic Vision 2030: Executive Summary, Security – Simon Serfaty**

<https://tpnonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Transatlantic-Vision-2030-Executive-Summary-Security-Simon-Serfaty.pdf>

**Transatlantic Partnership for Sustainable Development - Executive Summary**

<https://tpnonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Executive-Summary-TA-Partnership-for-Sustainable-Development-.pdf>

**Executive Summary: A New Beginning for the Transatlantic Economic Partnership**

<https://tpnonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Executive-Summary-A-new-beginning-For-the-Transatlantic-economic-partnership.pdf>

**A New Transatlantic Partnership for the Digital Age**

<https://tpnonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Transatlantic-Vision-2030-Digital-Age-Peter-Linton-1.pdf>

### 3). TPN INTERIM REPORT PLUS ADDENDUM

**The TPN Papers: Towards Transatlantic Partnership 2030 – Interim Report**

<https://tpnonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/The-TPN-Papers-Towards-Transatlantic-Partnership-2030-Interim-Report-1.pdf>

#### **Addendum to the TPN-Interim Report**

<https://tpnonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Addendum-to-the-TPN-Interim-Report.pdf>

#### **4). SUBSTANTIVE PHASE (PART 1)**

##### **Substantive Phase TPN Vision Project 2021-2024: Annex to Addendum Report**

<https://tpnonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/SUBSTANTIVE-PHASE-TPN-VISION-PROJECT-2021-2024-ANNEX-TO-ADDENDUM-REPORT-1.pdf>

##### **EPRS Study on EU-US Relations, presented by Bruce Stokes**

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS\\_STU\(2024\)759588](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_STU(2024)759588)

#### **5). COMPASS PROJECT**

##### **Fireproofing the EU-US Relationship: The Compass Project**

<https://tpnonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/FIREPROOFING-THE-EU-US-RELATIONSHIP-THE-COMPASS-PROJECT-1.pdf>

##### **Original Transatlantic Declaration 1990: Transatlantic Declaration on EC-US Relations, 1990**

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/124320/trans\\_declaration\\_90\\_en.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/124320/trans_declaration_90_en.pdf)

##### **Draft Renewed Transatlantic Declaration on EU-US Relations**

<https://tpnonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Draft-Renewed-Transatlantic-Declaration-on-EU-US-Relations.pdf>

#### **6). NATO AND EU/US LINKAGES**

##### **Annual Stocktaking Analysis**

<https://tpnonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Annual-Stocktaking-Analysis.pdf>

##### **Dr Jamie Shea - The Hour of Europe: Here at Last**

<https://tpnonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/The-Hour-of-Europe-Here-at-Last-by-Dr-Jamie-Shea.pdf>

## **7). KEY ARTICLES/DOCUMENTS**

**Bruce Stokes, Roll Call, February 2023 – Fireproofing U.S. European Ties**

<https://rollcall.com/2023/02/03/fire-proofing-u-s-european-ties/>

**Bruce Stokes, Politico, January 2024 - How Europe can start Trump-proofing**

<https://www.politico.eu/article/how-europe-leaders-can-start-trump-proofing-security-us-elections-transatlantic-relations/>

**Fireproofing the EU-US Relationship for the Long Term**

<https://tpnonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/FIREPROOFING-THE-EU-US-RELATIONSHIP-FOR-THE-LONG-TERM.pdf>

**Transatlantic Economy Report 2024 – Executive Summary**

[The Transatlantic Economy 2024](#)