

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 which shows no sign of ending and a Middle East conflict which 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 is now firming up proposals for new EU and US incoming administrations from 2025 onwards, to be presented in December 2024.

INTRODUCTION:

2024 is turning out to be an unusual year. There have been 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. Elections for the European Parliament took place in June resulting in the decision to hand a second term to President Von der Leyen. 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 remains turbulent. 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 which 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 is convening a series of conversations, mostly online, for TPN members with practitioners and academic experts,

The principles to be applied during this exercise are set out below with a draft timeline for the proposed events attached in Annex 1.

PRINCIPLES:

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

- >Maintain political leadership to ensure a balanced approach throughout. The structure already developed will be kept, organising events round 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. See conclusions of Session 14 of Transatlantic Week 2024, attached in Annex 2;
- >Consider how the new found 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 end 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.

Bruce indicated his availability during this period to discuss ideas with TPN members in order to take account of all aspects of policy and points of view.

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.

The first major issue to deal with was to assess what TPN could do to follow up 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.”

During May and June, TPN worked 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 officials were organised. At the same time, conversations have been organised on geopolitical and economic dimensions with experts

At end June, the European Council made a statement in the Strategic Agenda 2024-2029 confirming the willingness for the EU to work closely with transatlantic partners, not least in the field of defence and security. This has since been enlarged upon in the guidelines set out by President Von de Leyen for the upcoming mandate.

On the basis of these conversations, Bruce drew up a draft interim report which was discussed at a well-attended seminar in Brussels on Wednesday 2 October. The results of the seminar will be fed in to preparing the final report to be released in December. The remaining 3 virtual conversations will be organised during November.

THE TPN TEAM

10 OCTOBER 2024

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

A draft timeline has been drawn up for this process and is set out below. 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.

APRIL: Consult and confirm draft programme for remainder 2024

23 April **Call with Stu Eizenstat, Danuta Huebner 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)**

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

These conversations will provide the opportunity to assess the current state of EU US relations when there are momentous events occurring across the globe. The world is indeed on fire. These are dangerous times for the transatlantic partners and the need for closer cooperation is more urgent than ever. What are the greatest priorities that they must resolve in the months ahead? Looking beyond the elections, what could be 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?

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

Virtual Conversations with Bruce Stokes and others

EU US Partnership framework; Business and political dimensions

21 June **“Fireproofing the EU US relationship”**

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. 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 and how should it be best fireproofed.

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.

20 November Sustainability Virtual Conversation Washington/Brussels

“Priorities for EU US Cooperation on Sustainability 2025-2028”

Speaker: Ann Mettler Breakout Energy

Comments: Apple

With the impacts of climate change becoming ever more apparent, aligned global responses become more urgent by the day. Policymakers on both sides of the Atlantic are developing a full range of tools to meet the challenges, from the EU Green deal to the US Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). In the EU, a whole set of initiatives are delivering this green deal including pricing the use of carbon in trade, and reporting out on environmental, social and governance. The design and operation of the IRA is leading to a recalibration of industrial policy in Europe. Against this backdrop, the EU US Trade and Technology Council has launched a Transatlantic Initiative on Sustainable Trade (TIST) with a detailed work Programme intended to advance an integrated and resilient green transatlantic marketplace. What are the next steps for the US and the EU to take looking towards the period 2025-2028?

Key issues include

- Climate;
- Environmental policies;
- Green economy linkages.

21 November Digital Transformation Virtual Conversation Washington/Brussels

“Priorities for EU US cooperation on digital transformation 2025-2028”

Speaker: Thibaut Kleiner

Comments : Ajit Jaokar

The transatlantic economy, even traditional manufacturing and agriculture, is increasingly driven by data-fueled digital services. Artificial intelligence, quantum computing, 6G communications and advanced computer chips will drive the accelerating pace of change in this new-age economy. The EU and US need to deepen their cooperation in developing these new technologies, in setting the rules of the road for their use driving innovation and growth and preparing their citizens to flourish in the digital world with the right skills. Through such collaboration the US and EU can drive the technological and regulatory standards for the world, ensuring their competitive leadership in the years ahead. What are the next steps for the US and the EU to take looking forward to 2025-2028?

Key issues include

- AI;
- Emerging tech;
- Infrastructure;
- Data governance.

25 – 28 November European Parliament Strasbourg

27 November TPN Board: Finalisation of report Washington/Brussels

DECEMBER 2024:

9 December	Online presentation of report	Washington/Brussels
16 – 19 December	European Parliament	Strasbourg

JANUARY 2025:

8 January	TPN Long term review	Washington/Brussels
15 January	TPN Board	Washington/Brussels
20 - 23 January	European Parliament	Strasbourg

FEBRUARY 2025

10 – 13 February	European Parliament	Strasbourg
24 – 27 February	TPN Visit to Washington DC for in-person presentation for MEPs and staffers	Washington
	Cocktail party for new US Congress members	

MARCH 2025

10 – 13 March	European Parliament	Strasbourg
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JULY 2025

21 – 25 July	Transatlantic Week 2025	Washington
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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 10 years
- Establish formal consultation mechanisms so major policies impacting each other's economies are coordinated in advance
- Create a Transatlantic Assembly modelled 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 US on transatlantic relations.

