



Transatlantic Policy Network Staffers Network

Mission Statement

The key mission of TPN is 'to facilitate constructive dialogue and the development of jointly actionable objectives at a strategic level between the worlds of business and politics on both sides of the Atlantic with the involvement, where appropriate, of government, civil society, and academic representatives. Furthermore, 'it is to act as a communications mechanism for ideas on policy issues and to promote through educational activities the benefits of an EU/US partnership'.

In this light, the mission of the TPN Staffers Network is to foster enduring collaboration between the European Union and the United States. We aim to cultivate a robust, inclusive network that facilitates meaningful dialogue and knowledge exchange among future leaders across diverse sectors. By proactively addressing emerging challenges in technology, environmental policy, energy, and security, we seek to generate ideas and empower the next generation of decision-makers to pioneer innovative solutions as transatlantic partners.

We will prioritize open communication, mutual understanding, and sustained engagement. Through regular exchanges and informal interactions, we will create a space for the cultivation of trust, enduring relationships, and cross-disciplinary policy discussions. By remaining adaptable and forward-thinking, we will ensure that the TPN Staffers Network remains a steadfast platform for transatlantic cooperation, capable of effectively navigating the complexities of the evolving global landscape.

Membership and organizational structure

The TPN Staffers Network is open to staff working for Members of the US Congress and the European Parliament who understand the importance of the transatlantic relationship and desire to foster it.

Starting from a small base, A volunteer EU-US Core Group Steering Committee has been established with 6 active EU and US staff and former staff The US core group is composed of Gianluca Nigro (Rep. Boyle, PA-D); John Lynch (Rep. Costa, CA-D); Mark Erste (Rep. Issa, CA-R); Abe Friedman (Rep. DelBene, WA-D). The EU core group is currently composed of Emilia Plowiecki (Parliamentary Assistant to Marta Wcisło, MEP); Slavina Ancheva (Former Policy Adviser to Eva Maydell, MEP). Within TPN, the Staffers Network is coordinated by Dan Nechita, TPN EU Director.

The role of this informal steering group is to agree the overarching goals for Q4 2024 – Q4 2025; setting the dates, times, and agenda for quarterly meetings, including subject matter and speakers. It will also be able to liaise with business and interested parties within TPN who can assist with programming, and periodically host social gatherings for networking.

Network Development: Programming and Sustainability

Programming

The 2024 elections on both sides of the Atlantic have presented an exceptional window of opportunity to expand, consolidate, and institutionalize the Staffers Network. In the light of potential re-alignment in transatlantic priorities, on both sides of the Atlantic, the role of steadfast, structural staff-to-staff contacts becomes even more relevant for the transatlantic relationship. As such, TPN has made it a priority to build, grow, and consolidate the Staffers Network in the months ahead

- Accelerating the recruitment and onboarding of new Staffers Network members, growing the network to 10 active participants on both sides of the Atlantic by the end of 2024 and 30 active participants on both sides by the end of 2025
- Piloting two in-person dinners, in Brussels (scheduled for December 5) and Washington DC (early January 2025) with Parliament and Congress staff interested in the Staffers Network, moving the conversation from online to in-person
- Consolidating the core group, building a programming agenda for 2025, and implementing value-added programs to consolidate the Staffers Network throughout 2025 and encouraging policy consultations on topics on the legislative agenda
- Periodic policy discussions where staff, experts, and industry will have the opportunity to discuss critical issues of importance to the EU and US and to exchange views on political and policy issues of relevance to their work and to the transatlantic relationship
- Organizing a EU staff trip to Washington DC for meetings with DC counterparts (February 2025), integrating Staffer Network programming into Transatlantic Week 2025 (21 – 24 July in Washington DC), and preparing a US staff trip to Brussels for Fall 2025.

Sustainability

During 2025, TPN will focus on identifying supporters who believe that the Staffers Network is an important project for strengthening transatlantic relations. TPN is dedicated to secure appropriate funding to enable the proper functioning, growth, and sustainability of the staffers network and to enable staffers to connect and contribute to promoting closer EU-US ties. TPN is committed to independently sustain the Staffer Network so that members have no financial obligations for their participation.

Joining the staffers network

Membership in the Staffers Network is free. Invitations to join the Staffers Network are extended to European Parliament and US Congress staff interested in the transatlantic relationship based on a combination of criteria such as policy interests, active involvement in transatlantic issues, dedication to TPN mission, and recommendations from existing Staffer Network members.

Reasonable periodic involvement, including attendance to Staffer Network events and online conversations, is expected of active members of the Staffer Network within the constraints and limitations of their professional capacity and commitments.

Former staff members who have been active members of the Staffer Network remain connected to the Network as alumni and continue to be invited to attend events and programming relevant to their interests and field of expertise.