

TRANSATLANTIC POLICY NETWORK (TPN)

The Partnership Report

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TRANSATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP GATHERS POLITICAL MOMENTUM

Largely out of sight of mainstream media and commentators, essential political and institutional foundations have been laid over the past year for the determined development of broader, deeper and stronger XXIst century Transatlantic Partnership.

- Following efforts on both sides in early 2005 to improve the transatlantic political climate, the June 2005 EU-US Summit delivered the essential political commitments¹ necessary to drive forward key priorities of TPN's 10-point, 10-year strategy for strengthened Transatlantic Partnership². These include:
 - Cooperation on terrorism and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
 - Working together to promote democracy and support freedom, the rule of law and human rights worldwide, with specific focus on the Middle East;
 - A joint initiative to enhance Transatlantic economic integration and growth, incorporating specific work priorities from TPN's own agenda for completing the transatlantic market by 2015.
- US President George W. Bush then received European Commission President José Manuel Barroso on 18 October at the White House (the first such bilateral meeting in the White House for many years), to discuss the WTO Doha Round, the deepening of transatlantic economic integration, and the promotion of democracy in the world³. Participants included EU External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner, US Vice-President Dick Cheney and US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.
- A first informal EU-US economic ministerial meeting took place on 30 November in Brussels, hosted by the UK Presidency to discuss transatlantic economic integration and shared economic challenges⁴. A Joint EU-US Work Programme implementing the 2005 Summit Economic Initiative is now underway, with a progress report and recommendations due back to the mid-year 2006 EU-US Summit.
- Transatlantic cooperation on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons has also intensified since the 2005 Summit as a result of the shared concern over Iran.

¹ http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/us/sum06_05/declarations/index.htm

² Full text at : <http://www.tpononline.org/>

³ See also : http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/news/barroso/sp05_622.htm

⁴ http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/us/news/econ_301105.htm

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TPN in 2006 : Task-Force driven

TPN's priority for 2006 clearly must be to help build on these historic political commitments and further strengthen support for the policy processes now in place.

To maintain our focus and our ability to energise the broader effort, it is proposed to conduct 15 Task Forces through 2006, building on the 10 now operating. These 15 issue areas reflect consensus priorities emerging from the network in 2005, culminating in our November Autumn Meeting in Washington (see Annex 2).

As in the past each Task Force will be co-chaired by a Member of the United States Congress and a Member of European Parliament. A particular effort will be made to support the Administrations' Joint Work Programme on economic cooperation through opportunities for communication and ideas-generation across our politically-led network.

The 15 proposed Task Forces have been re-grouped (and in some cases re-numbered) to more forcefully reflect TPN's founding strategy of *linkage* between the common economic, political and security interests of transatlantic partners, and to stimulate greater focus on the institutional dimensions of transatlantic partnership – both bilateral and multilateral.

- Individual Task Forces will be encouraged to feed ideas into the 2006 mid-year EU-US Summit process as appropriate and practical.
- Conclusions and recommendations from all 15 Task Forces will be integrated into a draft report for consideration at our 2006 Autumn Meeting.

And a note of appreciation...

TPN is deeply grateful to the two Administrations and to our many Cooperating Institutions for the breadth and depth of expertise, experience and commitment you unfailingly bring to our politically-led Network. Without your collective support, we could not possibly pursue our agenda for strengthened Transatlantic Partnership.

TPN would like to express warm thanks for the generous contributions, support and involvement to its members, the European Commission and the German Marshall Fund of the United States

Annex 1:

Implementation of the Economic Initiative of the June 2005 EU-US Summit: Joint EU-US Work Programme

- The Joint Work Programme was adopted in November 2005. A link to the full text in pdf format can be found at :

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/us/economic_relations/index.htm

- The Work Programme covers :
 - Promoting regulatory and standards cooperation
 - Stimulating open and competitive capital markets
 - Money laundering and terrorist financing cooperation
 - Spurring innovation and the development of technology
 - Enhancing trade, travel and security
 - Promoting energy efficiency
 - Intellectual property rights
 - Investment
 - Competition policy and enforcement
 - Procurement
 - Services

Annex 2 :

2006 TPN Task Forces

Building on TPN's 10-point, 10-year strategy for strengthening transatlantic partnership, our 2005 Autumn Strategy Meeting has served to identify priorities for the coming year, to be taken forward by Task Forces addressing the following issues, each chaired by a Member of Congress and Member of the European Parliament with co-chairs to be envisaged where possible:

Economic Partnership

TF 1: Completing the Transatlantic Market
(To include Regulatory Co-operation)

TF 2: Developing Transatlantic Financial Services & Capital Markets

TF 3: The Digital Economy

TF 4: Completing the Doha Development Round

TF 5: Intellectual Property and the Global Agenda

TF 6: Research and Innovation

Political Partnership

TF 7: Demographics and Transatlantic Destiny

TF 8: Healthcare

TF 9: Energy security and Climate Change

TF 10: Globalisation: China and India as Emerging Partners

Security Partnership

TF 11: Terrorism/Weapons of Mass Destruction

TF 12: Development Assistance and Global Security

TF 13: Governance and Democracy

Institutional Partnership

TF 14: Transatlantic Framework

TF 15: Multilateral Frameworks