

# TRANSATLANTIC POLICY NETWORK (TPN)

## The Partnership Report

N° 2 – January 2005

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

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### **Momentum to Strengthen Transatlantic Partnership Builds as New Administrations Take Over in Washington and Brussels**

As the second Bush administration and the new EU leadership take office, world events are drawing Europe and the United States toward each other across a broad spectrum of shared economic, political and security interests. Moreover, there is a real opportunity now for sketching out a joint plan of action between the transatlantic partners on issues of mutual interest.

#### *The new administrations connect...*

President George W. Bush's scheduled trip to Brussels during the week of February 21<sup>st</sup> to meet both European Union and NATO leaders marks the culmination of three months of intense behind-the-scenes diplomacy between his new foreign policy team and the newly-installed Barroso Commission.

Both National Security Advisor designate Stephen Hadley and out-going Secretary of State Colin Powell visited Brussels before Christmas to prepare the ground. European Foreign Affairs Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner has now paid a return visit to Powell, Hadley and Secretary of State designate Condoleezza Rice. In her January 13<sup>th</sup> speech<sup>1</sup> at Washington's Center for Strategic and International Studies (a TPN cooperating institution), Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner captured the renewed sense of transatlantic purpose and possibility, looking both backward and forward:

*In the words of President Kennedy, "Let both sides explore what problems unite us instead of belabouring those problems which divide us". And let us undertake to fulfill more of the promise that our relations hold, for prosperity, peace, freedom and security.*

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<sup>1</sup> Full text at : [http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/news/ferrero/2005/csis\\_130105.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/news/ferrero/2005/csis_130105.htm)

***European Parliament: support for strengthened Partnership grows***

On the same day in Strasbourg, European Parliamentarians adopted by a vote of 319 to 94 with 151 abstentions a historic and wide-ranging call for strengthened transatlantic partnership<sup>2</sup>.

In his supportive remarks<sup>3</sup> during the debate leading up to the vote, European Commissioner Janez Potocnik – speaking in the absence of Ms. Ferrero-Waldner – stressed that the Commission has been “listening carefully to views within frameworks such as the Transatlantic Policy Network, and (looks) forward to a general constructive dialogue with you on the future of the transatlantic partnership.” He also confirmed that the Commission is now :

- assessing the contributions made to the discussion by the stakeholders last year on how to enhance the EU-US economic partnership and will propose a strategy, with concrete steps, by the time of the next EU-US summit later this year;
- reviewing the institutional framework of EU-US relations and will submit a communication on both the framework for relations and economic partnership to Parliament and the Council in the spring, prior to the EU-US summit.

The Parliament’s Resolution expresses its hope “that the second term-in-office of President Bush and the new administration will lead to a fresh start in EU-US transatlantic relations.” The Parliament declares “the willingness of the European Union, and specifically the European Parliament, to cooperate and work together to solve global problems which require global efforts and a common approach.” In this respect, the Parliament “welcomes the visit by President Bush to the European institutions in February 2005.”

The Resolution goes on to propose “the building of a transatlantic ‘community of action’ for regional and global cooperation and challenges”, focused particularly on three areas for joint actions:

- (a) the development of a peace initiative in the Middle East
- (b) the search for global security; and
- (c) the strengthening of the economic partnership, by focusing on specific ideas to further transatlantic economic integration to the fullest.

Finally, Parliamentarians explicitly endorse TPN’s call for an agreement by the end of 2005 to update the 1995 New Transatlantic Agenda, replacing it with a “Transatlantic Partnership Agreement” to be implemented from 2007.

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<sup>2</sup> Full text at : <http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2005-0007+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&LEVEL=3&NAV=X>

<sup>3</sup> Full text at : <http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+CRE+20050112+ITEM-010+DOC+XML+V0//EN&L=EN&LEVEL=3&NAV=S&LSTDOC=Y&MODE-CRE=SEARCH&DETAIL=3-182>

### *TPN Autumn Meeting sets Partnership priorities for 2005*

Much of the intellectual and political groundwork driving the new momentum has been laid over the past year through the mobilisation effort behind TPN's 10-point, 10-year *Strategy to Strengthen Transatlantic Partnership*<sup>4</sup> (adopted at our 2003 Autumn Meeting).

Although elections and their aftermath on both sides interrupted TPN's normal programming rhythm over the past 6 months, over 250 participants turned out for our December 2004 Autumn Meeting in Brussels, an unprecedented demonstration of commitment to strengthened transatlantic partnership, as well as recognition that the time is ripe for progress.

Our US congressional delegation of eight included four senior House and Senate Committee chairmen, while some 20 Members participated from the European Parliament. Ms. Ferrero-Waldner and Peter Mandelson, new European Commissioner for trade, were welcomed into the TPN family, and Gijs de Vries, a TPN co-founder and now EU Counter Terrorism Coordinator, was warmly welcomed back.

In her remarks, Benita Ferrero-Waldner emphasised "the importance I attach to such opportunities for policy makers to meet. In discussing our future relations, links between the US Congress and Members of the European Parliament will play a very important role, and I hope 2005 will see them intensify." Peter Mandelson affirmed that the transatlantic economic relationship "is both a foundation and an expression of something much wider and even more important. This is the political partnership and alliance between Europe and America."

Gijs de Vries set out the EU counter-terrorism agenda and confirmed that transatlantic cooperation terrorism is now very good on the ground. But he cautioned that much more must be done, and called for "the continued focus of legislators" to push administrations and "get beyond the images".

During the meeting, the overall Chairmanship of TPN passed from US Representative Jim Kolbe to US Senator Bob Bennett, Chairman of the Senate Joint Economic Committee, who will serve for the next two years. In his closing remarks, Senator Bennett stressed that "demographics are destiny", that Europe is aging more rapidly than the US, and that this could be a source of considerable tension.

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<sup>4</sup> Full text at : <http://www.tponline.org/>

## *TPN Task Forces 2005*

In order to generate focused support and momentum for the specific transatlantic partnership priorities emerging from our Autumn Meeting, TPN will establish a number of Task Forces in 2005. Each will be co-chaired by a member of the US House or Senate and a member of European Parliament with a rapporteur and broadly based business support.

Ideas from the Task Forces coming from our Spring Meeting in mid-May will be considered for submission in the run-up to the mid-year EU/US summit. Final Task Force conclusions and recommendations will be reviewed during our November Leadership Roundtable to be held in Washington DC in early November, and submitted at our 2005 Autumn Meeting in December. Task Forces under development include:

### *Economic Partnership*

#### *(Bilateral)*

*TF 1A: Priorities for a Barrier-free Transatlantic Market*

*TF 1B: Priorities for Barrier-free Transatlantic Financial Services & Capital Markets*

*TF 1C: Priorities for the Digital Economy*

#### *(Global)*

*TF 1D: Completing the Doha Development Round*

*TF 1E: Intellectual Property*

### *Political Partnership*

*TF 2A: Energy & Climate Change*

*TF 2B: Homeland Security/Terrorism/Weapons of Mass Destruction*

*TF 2C: Greater Middle East*

### *The World in 2015*

*TF 3A: Demographics & Transatlantic Destiny*

*TF 3B: The Transatlantic & Multilateral Frameworks*

*TF 3C: Development Assistance*

More details on these Task Forces will be circulated shortly. Should you wish to participate in any of them, please e-mail Vivien Haig at **[vivien.haig@skynet.be](mailto:vivien.haig@skynet.be)**