

TRANSATLANTIC POLICY NETWORK (TPN)

The Partnership Report

N° 3 – July 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

EU/US SUMMIT TAKES FORWARD PARTNERSHIP AGENDA WITH STRONG SUPPORT FROM LEGISLATORS AND THE TRANSATLANTIC BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Building on the February visit of George W. Bush to NATO and the EU at the start of his second term, partnership commitments¹ adopted by the US and EU Presidencies in Washington on June 20th now create the basis for strong EU/US collaboration in the coming years. This agenda features key priorities from TPN's own 10-point, 10-year Action Plan to strengthen transatlantic partnership².

In recent weeks legislators on both sides have also registered strong support for strengthened partnership, the summit agenda, and closer working relations between Congress and the European Parliament. :

- On the 9th of June the European Parliament adopted a strong, wide-ranging Resolution on ensuring the success of the forthcoming summit³;
- The United States Senate adopted a similar Resolution on 20th of June.⁴

The Transatlantic Business Dialogue (TABD) has welcomed the summit results⁵, particularly the acceptance of its proposal for the creation of a Regulatory Cooperation Forum to “stimulate more consistent, effective and coordinated cooperation in regulatory dialogues already underway, as well as to encourage the start of new ones.”

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

² Full text at : <http://www.tpnonline.org/pdf/1203Outreach.pdf>

³ <http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2005-0238+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&LEVEL=3&NAV=X>

⁴ S. Res. 178; http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_cong_bills&docid=f:sr178ats.txt

⁵ <http://www.tabd.com/>

Key summit commitments...

Democracy, freedom, the rule of law and human rights worldwide : The EU and the US agree to work together to advance these priorities around the world as “a strategic priority as well as a moral necessity.” Specific reference is made to :

- Reform of UN human rights mechanisms, creation of a UN Peace building Commission, and the UN Democracy Fund;
- Support for free and fair elections in Afghanistan, Haiti, DRC, Iraq and the Palestinian territories;
- The EU and Nato roles in Europe, further reform and integration in the Balkans, and continued efforts in Belarus;
- The Middle East Forum for the Future, the G-8 BMENA Initiative, and recent elections in Lebanon.

Two additional Declarations amplify this commitment :

- “Working Together to Promote Peace, Stability, Prosperity, and Good Governance in Africa”
- “Working together to Promote Peace, Prosperity and Progress in the Middle East”

Non-proliferation and the Fight Against Terrorism : Anti-terrorist cooperation deepens, while Iran and North Korea become the focus of non-proliferation efforts.

Transatlantic Economic Integration and Growth : the EU and the US commit to a multi-year effort “to enhance economic growth and innovation across the Atlantic, make progress toward integration of the transatlantic market and strengthen our joint leadership in the global economy.” The agenda for action :

- Conclude the Doha Development Agenda negotiations by end 2006
- Promote regulatory cooperation / establish Regulatory Cooperation Forum
- Promote technological cooperation in a wide range of areas
- Enhance trade and transport security and facilitate movement of goods and people
- Develop and help disseminate energy efficiency technologies
- Support worldwide protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights
- Facilitate investment flows that contribute to sustained economic growth
- Explore confidential information exchange in international competition cases
- Improve transatlantic procurement opportunities
- Reinforce cooperation in services (mutual recognition, aviation)

Each agenda point refers to more explicit action points in annex. Energy and the fight against piracy/counterfeiting are each also the object of a dedicated summit Declaration.

The Partnership agenda : TPN will continue to lead...

Participants in TPN's Spring Meeting in Salt Lake City in May, hosted by TPN Chairman and Utah Senator Bob Bennett, endorsed the launch of 10 TPN Task Forces - mandated by our 2004 autumn meeting - to consider specific priorities for the next 18 months across the spectrum of transatlantic issues. Each Task Force is co-chaired by a member of Congress and a member of the European Parliament. A number have already met in either Brussels or Washington, or both (12 individual events as of this writing).

Conclusions from the Task Forces will be reviewed at the TPN Autumn Strategy Meeting set for November 3-4, 2005 in Washington, bringing together a critical mass of administration, political and business to endorse practical transatlantic partnership priorities for 2006.

The Task Forces :

Economic Partnership

TF 1: Completing the Transatlantic Market

*Co-Chairmen: **The Hon. Phil English, US House of Representatives**
Erika Mann MEP*

TF 2: Developing Transatlantic Financial Services & Capital Markets

*Co-Chairmen: **The Hon. Mike Oxley, US House of Representatives**
Peter Skinner, MEP*

TF 3: The Digital Economy

*Co-Chairmen: **The Hon. Bob Goodlatte, US House of Representatives**
The Hon. Rick Boucher, US House of Representatives
Malcolm Harbour MEP
Erika Mann MEP*

TF 4: Completing the Doha Development Round

*Co-chairmen: **The Hon. Sandy Levin, US House of Representatives**
Enrique Baron Crespo MEP*

TF 5: Intellectual Property and the Global Agenda

*Co-Chairmen: **The Hon. James Sensenbrenner, US House of Representatives**
Arlene McCarthy, MEP*

Political Partnership

TF 6: Terrorism/Weapons of Mass Destruction

*Co-Chairmen: **The Hon. Pat Roberts, US States Senate***

Hannes Swoboda MEP

TF 7: Development Assistance and Global Security

*Co-Chairmen: **The Hon. Ron Kind, U.S. House of Representatives***

Jan Mulder MEP

Security Partnership

TF 8: Broader Middle East

*Co-Chairmen: **The Hon. Dennis Cardoza, US House of Representatives***

Jose Salafranca MEP

Institutional Partnership

TF 9: Transatlantic & Multilateral Frameworks

*Co-Chairmen: **The Hon. Jim Kolbe, U.S. House of Representatives***

Elmar Brok MEP

Special Project

TF 10: Demographics and Transatlantic Destiny

*Co-Chairmen: **The Hon. Robert Bennett, U.S. Senate***

James Elles MEP

The Partnership Report is provided as a service to participants and friends of the Transatlantic Policy Network. It does not necessarily reflect the views of any individual or organisation. It is compiled by Peter Linton, TPN Rapporteur Europe, who is solely responsible for its content (peter.linton@tpnonline.org).