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“No EU or US objectives should create barriers to transatlantic trade and cooperation”

INTA Committee Meeting, “A new EU-US agenda for a global change”.

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It is indeed hard to believe but there is on the other side of Atlantic new President who values international cooperation and transatlantic relations. I believe that we also have on both sides of the Ocean a good understanding that if we stand together again and do in a thoughtful manner our trade policies, it will give us both greater agency in the global world.

I would like to thank the Commission and the EEAS for this agenda - it comes at an important crossroads in transatlantic relations. I welcome points and suggestions raised in the document. We need to continue hard work to improve our relations and find solutions to existing issues. There are some issues that strongly matter and which are a legacy of the last four years of largely dysfunctional relations.

I share your approach to the need of broadening the perspective. I am also convinced that the sooner we can have a joint summit the better. But I imagine that you have already reached out to the new administration with the EU transatlantic agenda.

The EU is proposing to establish a new EU-US Trade and Technology Council (TTC). I would urge the Commission to include an interparliamentary mechanism that would allow the Parliament to be not only informed but also to contribute to shaping new strands of joint work. The Council could include as well stakeholders from the business community, but also civil rights organisation for example, especially when dealing with issues relating to the protection of data.

President Biden has made the reshoring of manufacturing a goal of his campaign pledge to "build back better." He has targeted easing US dependence on imports of products critical to responding to the public health crisis, such as drugs and medical devices. This goal ties in with the announcement of the 'Buy America' executive order, which affects the government procurement market. The Commission has to look carefully into potential impact of this approach in particular in the area of public procurement.

These goals of the Biden administration bear resemblance to our own idea of pursuing an open strategic autonomy. Given the still rather open concept, we should use the opportunity and work together with the Biden administration to ensure that neither the US ideas of 'buy American' nor our focus on open strategic autonomy creates barriers to transatlantic trade and cooperation. In this context, exploiting the potential to be created by the Trade and Tech Council in the field of standardization, potentially leading to establishing common regulatory space for example in the digital transition area seems to be a rational step and I hope that we will find political will to work through the digital sovereignty challenge together.