

Prof. Danuta Hübner,

“Grounding short term policies in a longer term perspective”

INTA Committee meeting - comments on the Strategic Foresight Report: “Charting the course towards a more resilient Europe”.

European Parliament, Brussels, 28 January 2021 (online)

We appreciate highly the new initiative of the European Commission to look at mega trends in the world around us and in the Union through the annual foresight reports. Your work allows us to keep track of our strategic direction, but also gives our everyday policy approaches a strategic direction. To quote the report itself: "ensuring that short-term initiatives are grounded in a longer term perspective" are very important during these turbulent times both at home and farther afield. It is in particular meaningful and matters now when we navigate toward the vision of open strategic autonomy.

In the report, when you reflect on the geopolitical dimension, you mention the following: "As the United States turns further inwards, it leaves a void on the global stage, which other players such as China are eager to fill". As we know today there has been a change of heart among American voters and new administration has come into fruition ringing new style into policy making and hopefully as well new substance. I believe that if we stand together on global issues synergies will be produced which will strengthen global Europe. I hope that in next year's foresight report, we will hear more from you on this issue. It would be interesting to get from you comments on a potential added value coming from regulatory cooperation between US and EU that might lead to common regulatory space, fundamental for digital transition.

The report notes that "Europe's extensive global trade capacity underpins its geopolitical power and resilience." I would add that this power is underpinned by our strong global position as standard setter.

So I strongly agree when you say that "the EU has a long-standing capacity and legacy in shaping international standards and norms. It now needs to strengthen forward-looking alliances to continue shaping international norms and standards in a way that reflects European values and interests." We have to pursue this goal with our

transatlantic partners, and the UK, to create a trilateral transatlantic regulatory standards space. We cannot rely on the Brussels effect alone, but need to actively pursue this path.

I hope that the foresight team, in this dramatically changing reality, will continue its efforts to identify and monitor opportunities, capacities and vulnerabilities of the new resiliency oriented European Union, while protecting the importance of the word "open" in our European strategic autonomy. In this committee we truly care about it.

I also understand that in the face of all the existing and incoming challenges there is no alternative to the need of building the strategic foresight on a deep scientific research. But the report also states that foresight helps build and use collective intelligence. So let me say in conclusion that the Conference on the Future of Europe can be the best available means for gathering the collective intelligence of citizens of various social and economic groups with specific insights based on the experience on the ground.